STAR TREK

VOL 3

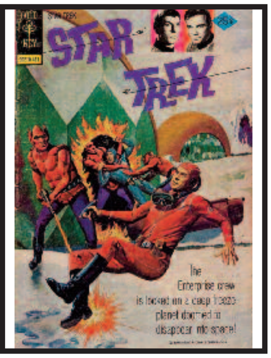
GOLD KEY COMIC BOOKS

STAR TREK
20¢
Death Grazes the Enterprise Crew... When 10,000 year old Mummies Come to Life!

STAR TREK
20¢
TRAPPED IN SUPERSPACE, THE ENTERPRISE CREW IS RELENTLESSLY HUNTED BY A TERRIFYING WAR MACHINE!

STAR TREK
20¢
A planetful of doomed children—playing their deadliest game!

STAR TREK
20¢
SKY PIRATES RAID THE STARS— AND CAPTAIN KIRK IS CHARGED WITH TREASON!

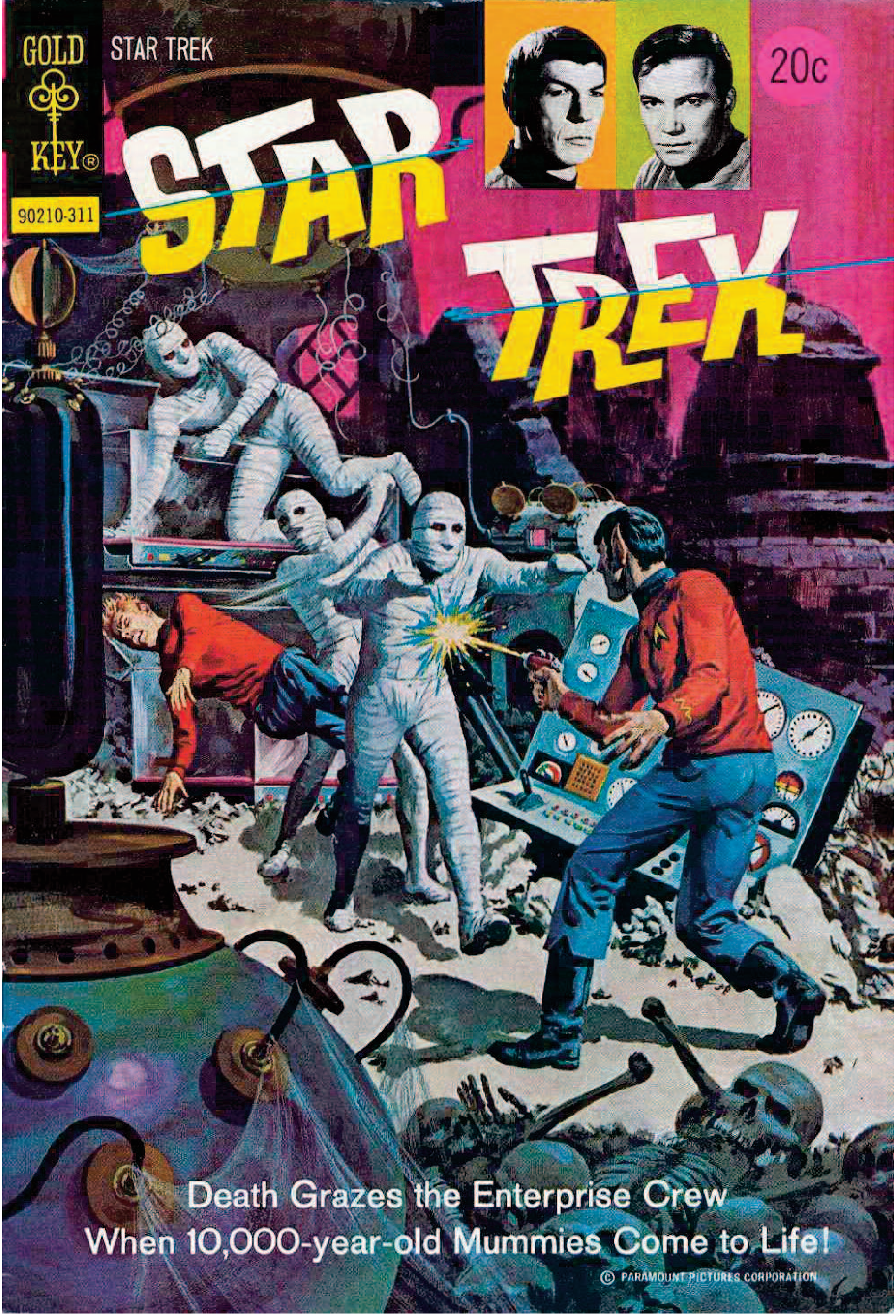

STAR TREK
The Enterprise crew is locked on a deep freeze planet doomed to disappear into space!

STAR TREK
DEAD PLANET... OR DEADLY?

STAR TREK
K-2, Planet of Death, where cannibal plants stalk animal prey!

STAR TREK
25¢

ISSUES #21-30


GOLD KEY®
STAR TREK
90210-311
20c
STAR TREK
Death Grazes the Enterprise Crew
When 10,000-year-old Mummies Come to Life!

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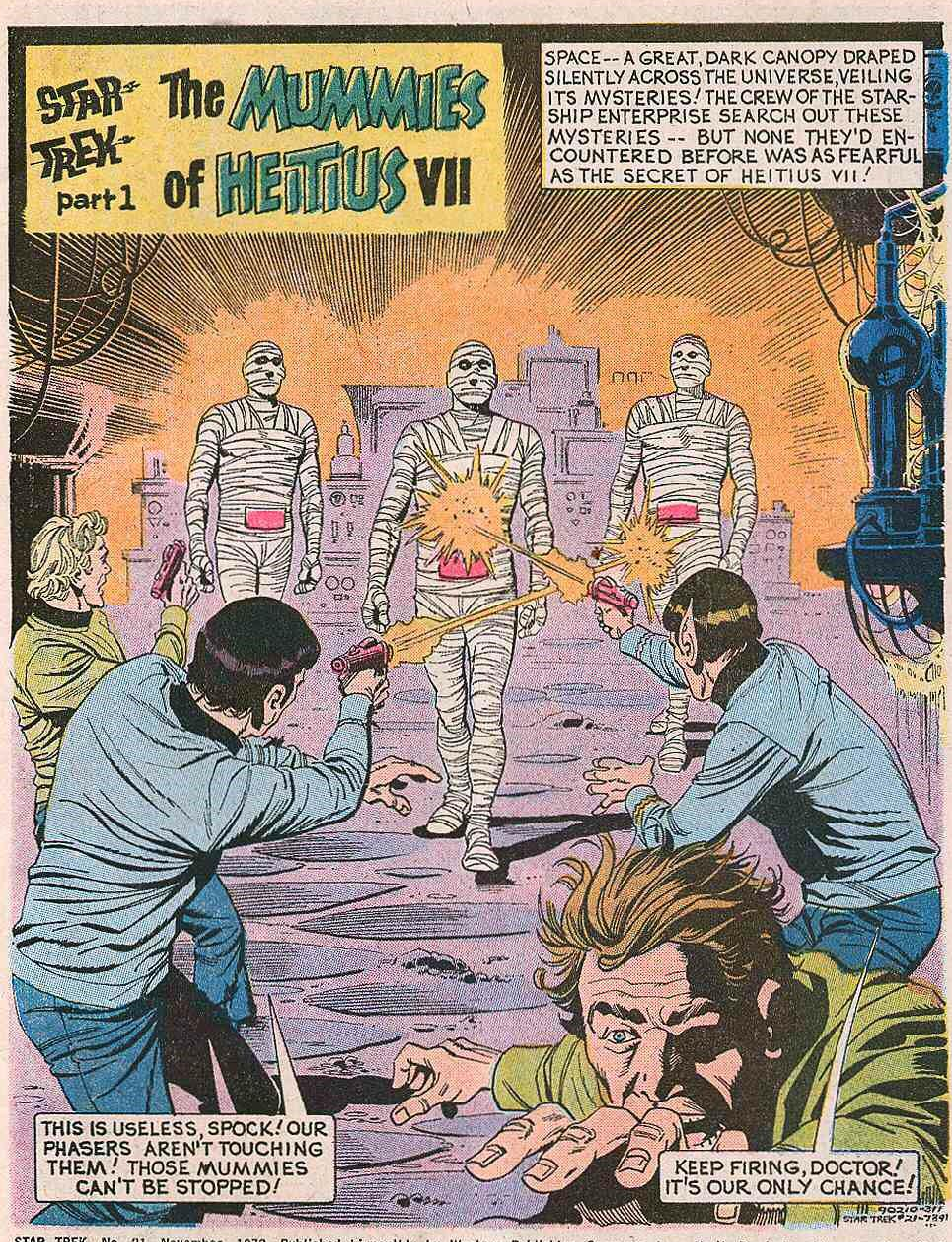
STAR TREK part 1
The MUMMIES of HEITIUS VII
SPACE -- A GREAT, DARK CANOPY DRAPED SILENTLY ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, VEILING ITS MYSTERIES! THE CREW OF THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE SEARCH OUT THESE MYSTERIES -- BUT NONE THEY'D ENCOUNTERED BEFORE WAS AS FEARFUL AS THE SECRET OF HEITIUS VII!
THIS IS USELESS, SPOCK! OUR PHASERS AREN'T TOUCHING THEM! THOSE MUMMIES CAN'T BE STOPPED!
KEEP FIRING, DOCTOR! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
90210-311
STAR TREK #21-7391

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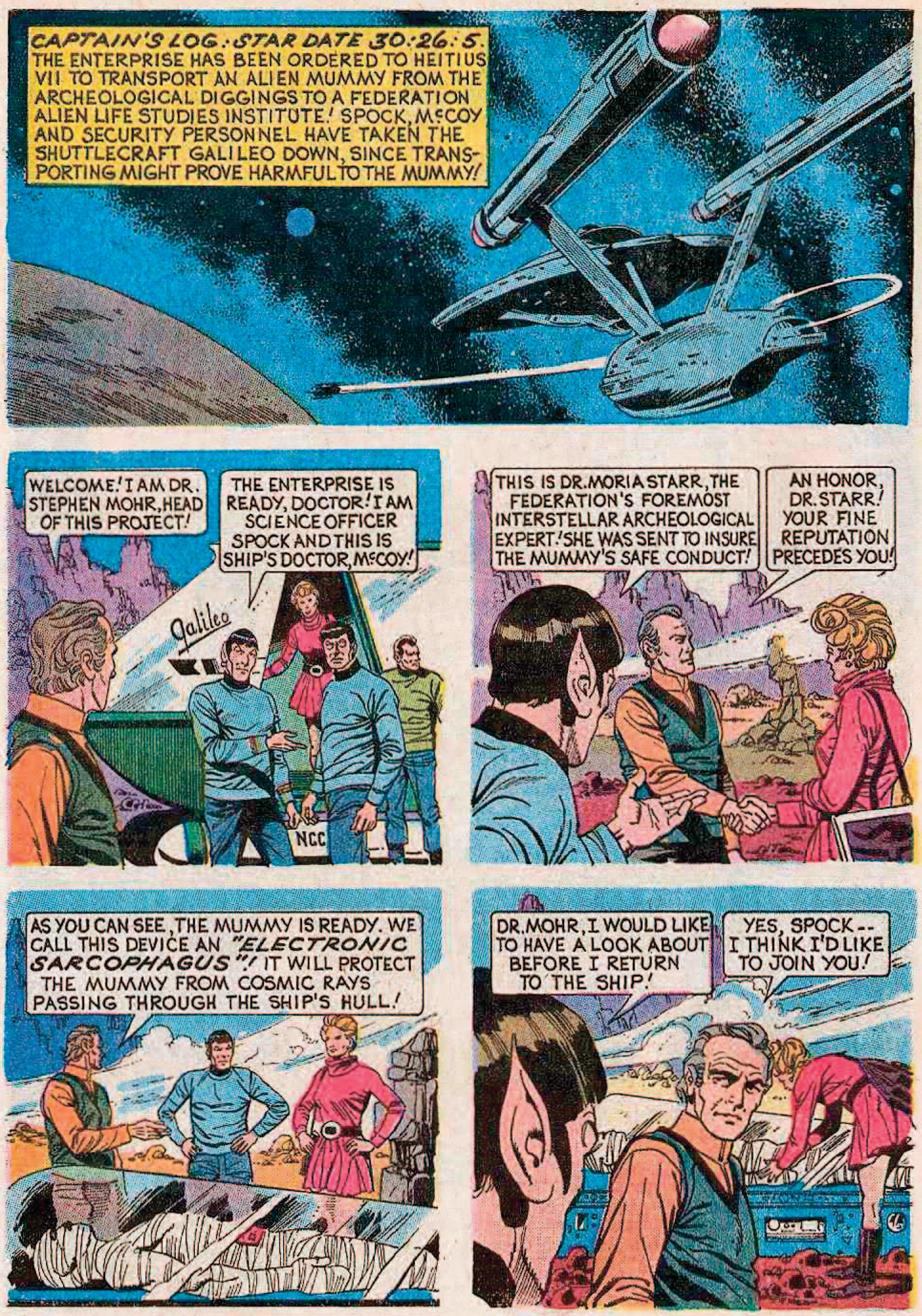
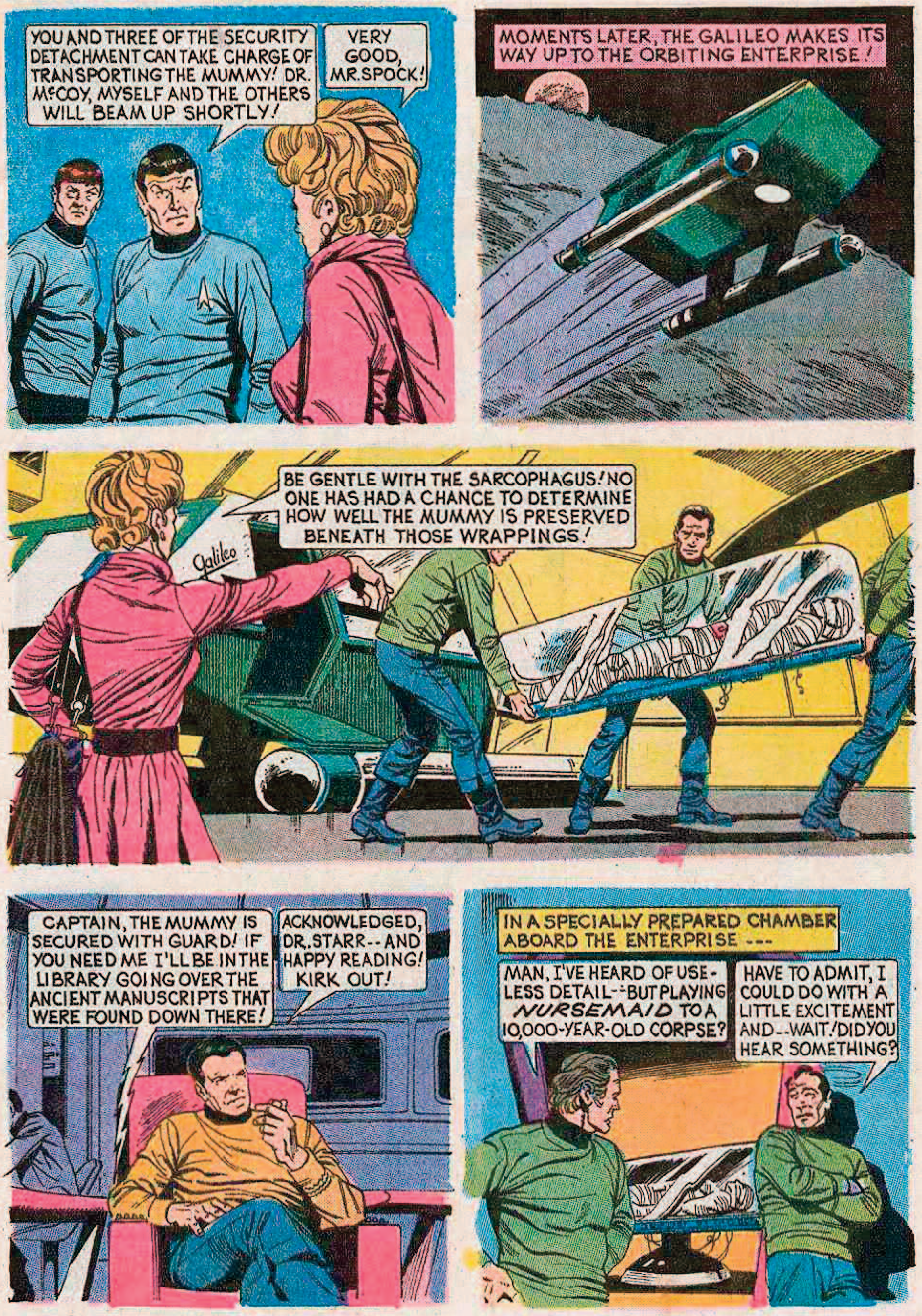
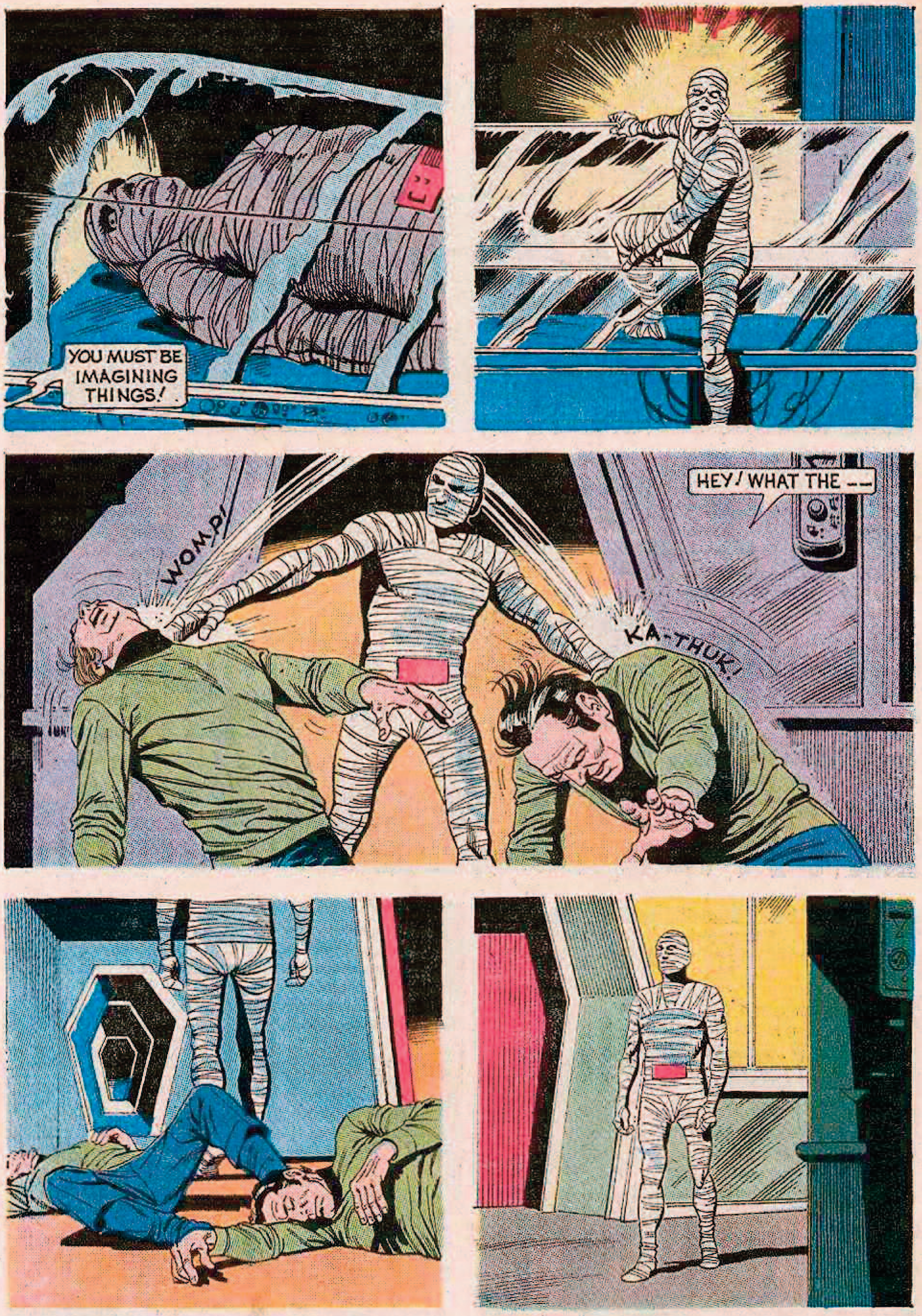
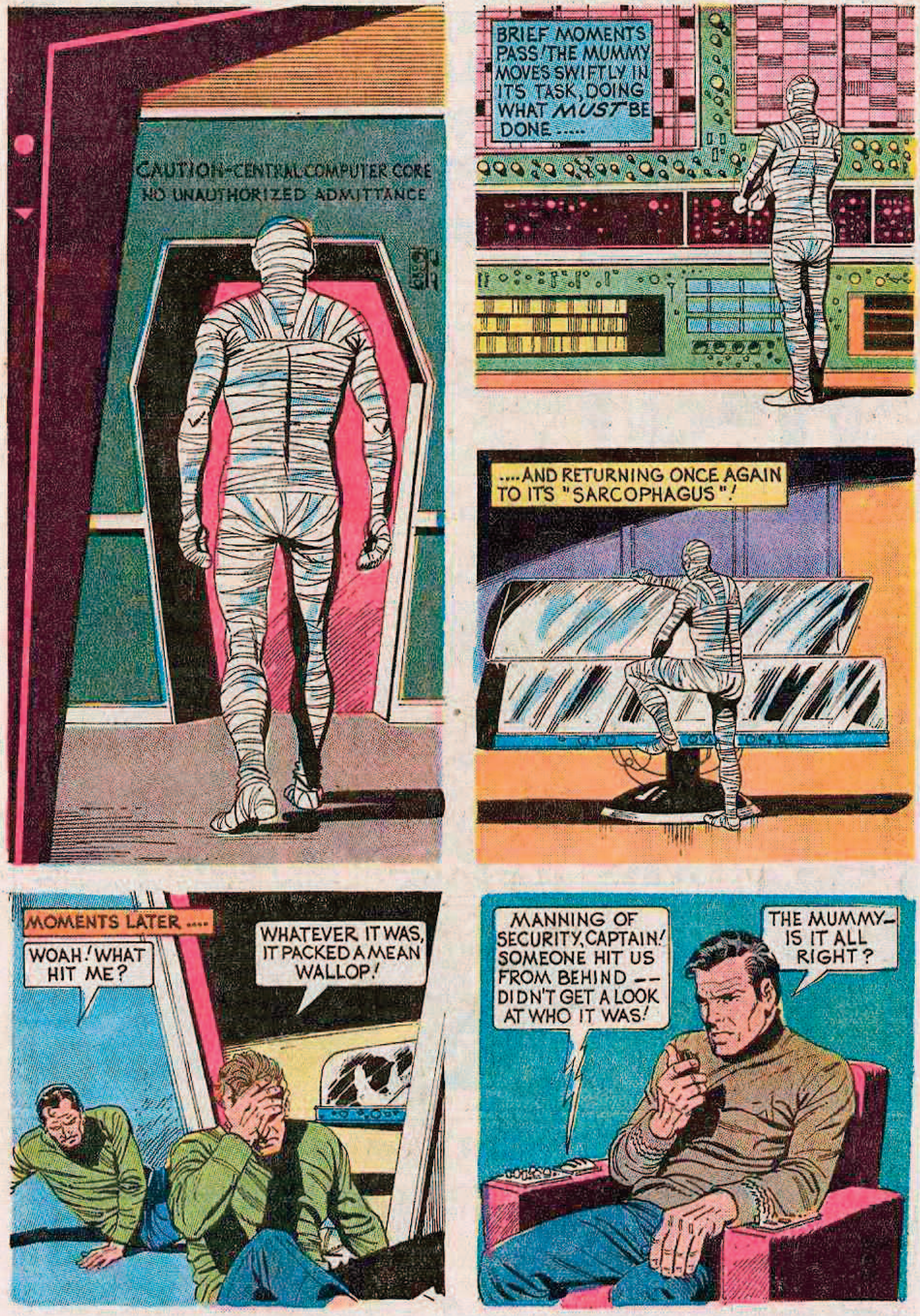
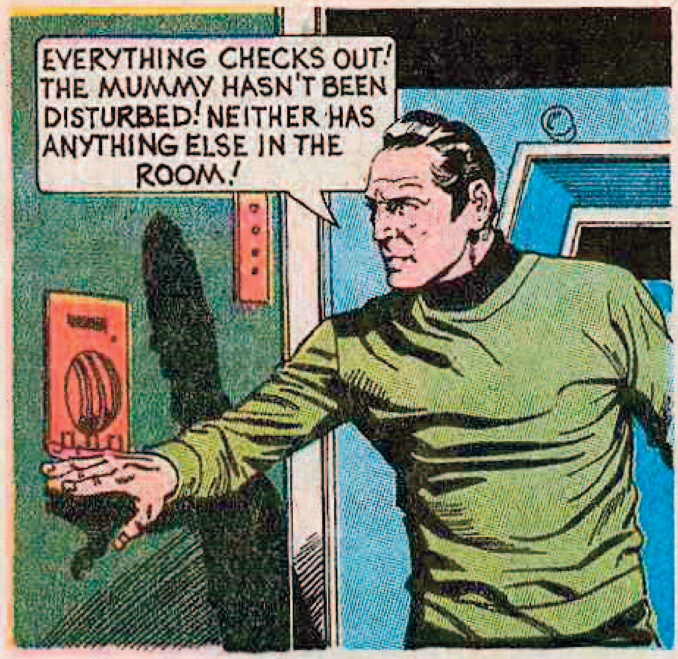
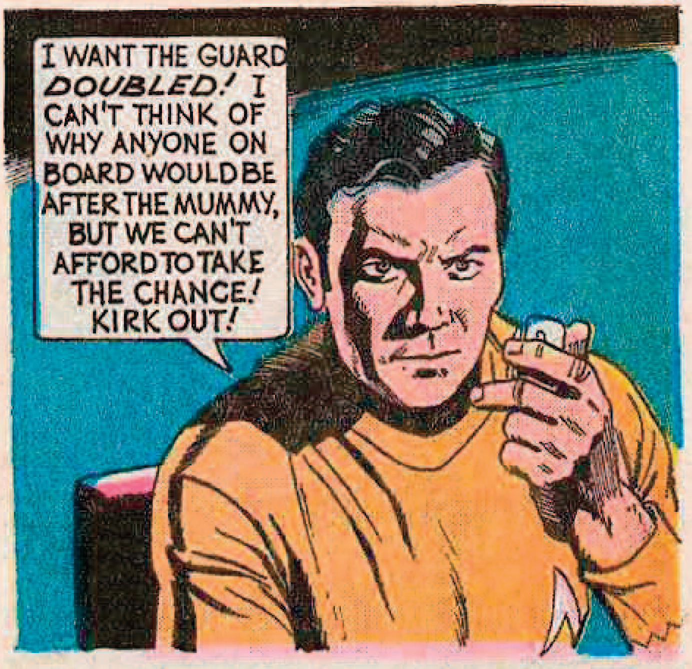

CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 30:26:5. THE ENTERPRISE HAS BEEN ORDERED TO HEITIUS VII TO TRANSPORT AN ALIEN MUMMY FROM THE ARCHEOLOGICAL DIGGINGS TO A FEDERATION ALIEN LIFE STUDIES INSTITUTE! SPOCK, McCOY AND SECURITY PERSONNEL HAVE TAKEN THE SHUTTLECRAFT GALILEO DOWN, SINCE TRANSPORTING MIGHT PROVE HARMFUL TO THE MUMMY!
WELCOME! I AM DR. STEPHEN MOHR, HEAD OF THIS PROJECT!
THE ENTERPRISE IS READY, DOCTOR! I AM SCIENCE OFFICER SPOCK AND THIS IS SHIP'S DOCTOR, McCOY!
Galileo
NCC
THIS IS DR. MORIA STARR, THE FEDERATION'S FOREMOST INTERSTELLAR ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPERT! SHE WAS SENT TO INSURE THE MUMMY'S SAFE CONDUCT!
AN HONOR, DR. STARR! YOUR FINE REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU!
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE MUMMY IS READY. WE CALL THIS DEVICE AN "ELECTRONIC SARCOPHAGUS"! IT WILL PROTECT THE MUMMY FROM COSMIC RAYS PASSING THROUGH THE SHIP'S HULL!
DR. MOHR, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK ABOUT BEFORE I RETURN TO THE SHIP!
YES, SPOCK -- I THINK I'D LIKE TO JOIN YOU!

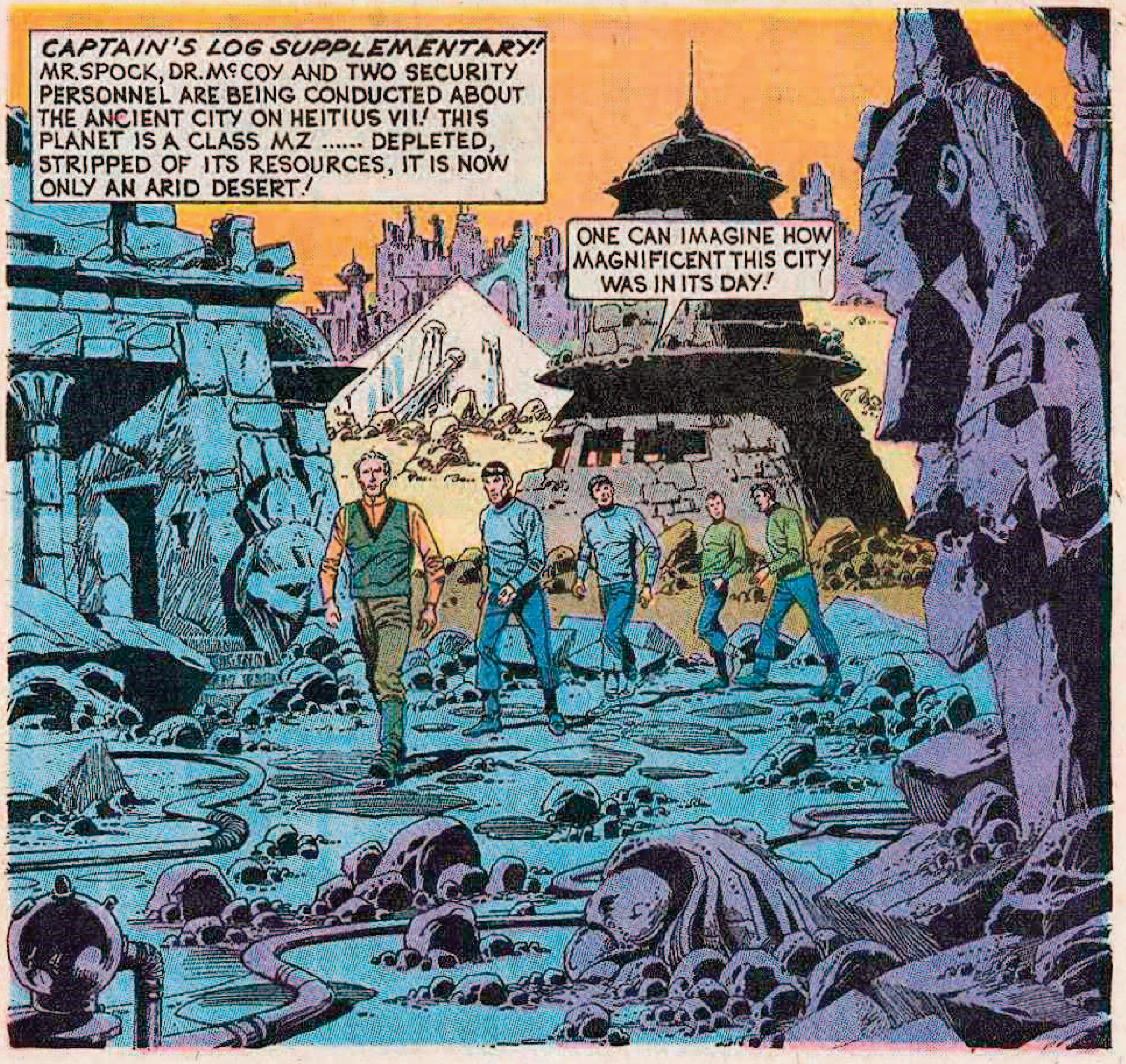

YOU AND THREE OF THE SECURITY DETACHMENT CAN TAKE CHARGE OF TRANSPORTING THE MUMMY! DR. McCOY, MYSELF AND THE OTHERS WILL BEAM UP SHORTLY!
VERY GOOD, MR. SPOCK!
MOMENTS LATER, THE GALILEO MAKES ITS WAY UP TO THE ORBITING ENTERPRISE!
BE GENTLE WITH THE SARCOPHAGUS! NO ONE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO DETERMINE HOW WELL THE MUMMY IS PRESERVED BENEATH THOSE WRAPPINGS!
Galileo
CAPTAIN, THE MUMMY IS SECURED WITH GUARD! IF YOU NEED ME I'LL BE IN THE LIBRARY GOING OVER THE ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS THAT WERE FOUND DOWN THERE!
ACKNOWLEDGED, DR. STARR-- AND HAPPY READING! KIRK OUT!
IN A SPECIALLY PREPARED CHAMBER ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE ---
MAN, I'VE HEARD OF USELESS DETAIL--BUT PLAYING *NURSEMAID* TO A 10,000-YEAR-OLD CORPSE?
HAVE TO ADMIT, I COULD DO WITH A LITTLE EXCITEMENT AND--WAIT! DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

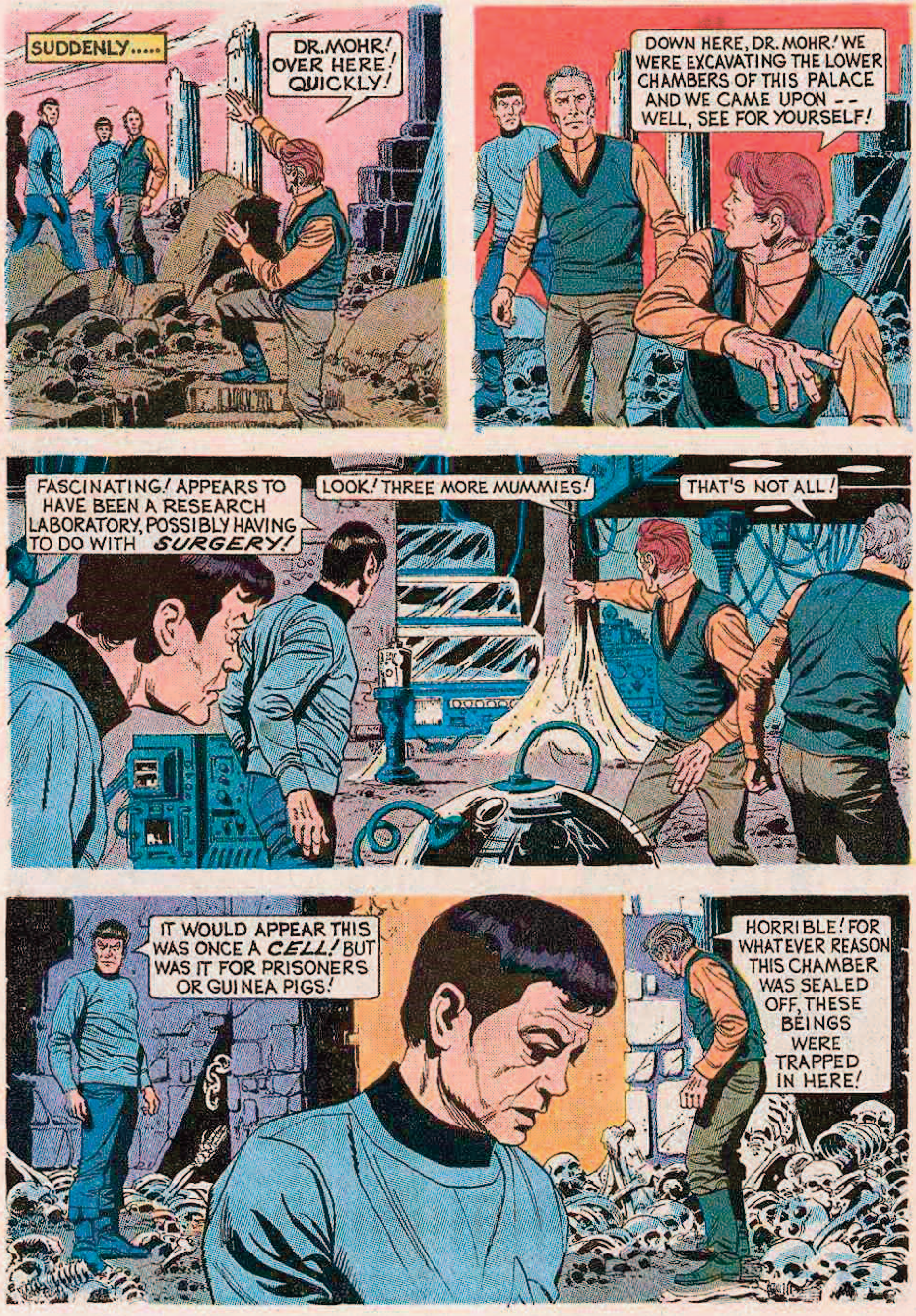

YOU MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS!
WOMP!
HEY! WHAT THE --
KA-THUK!

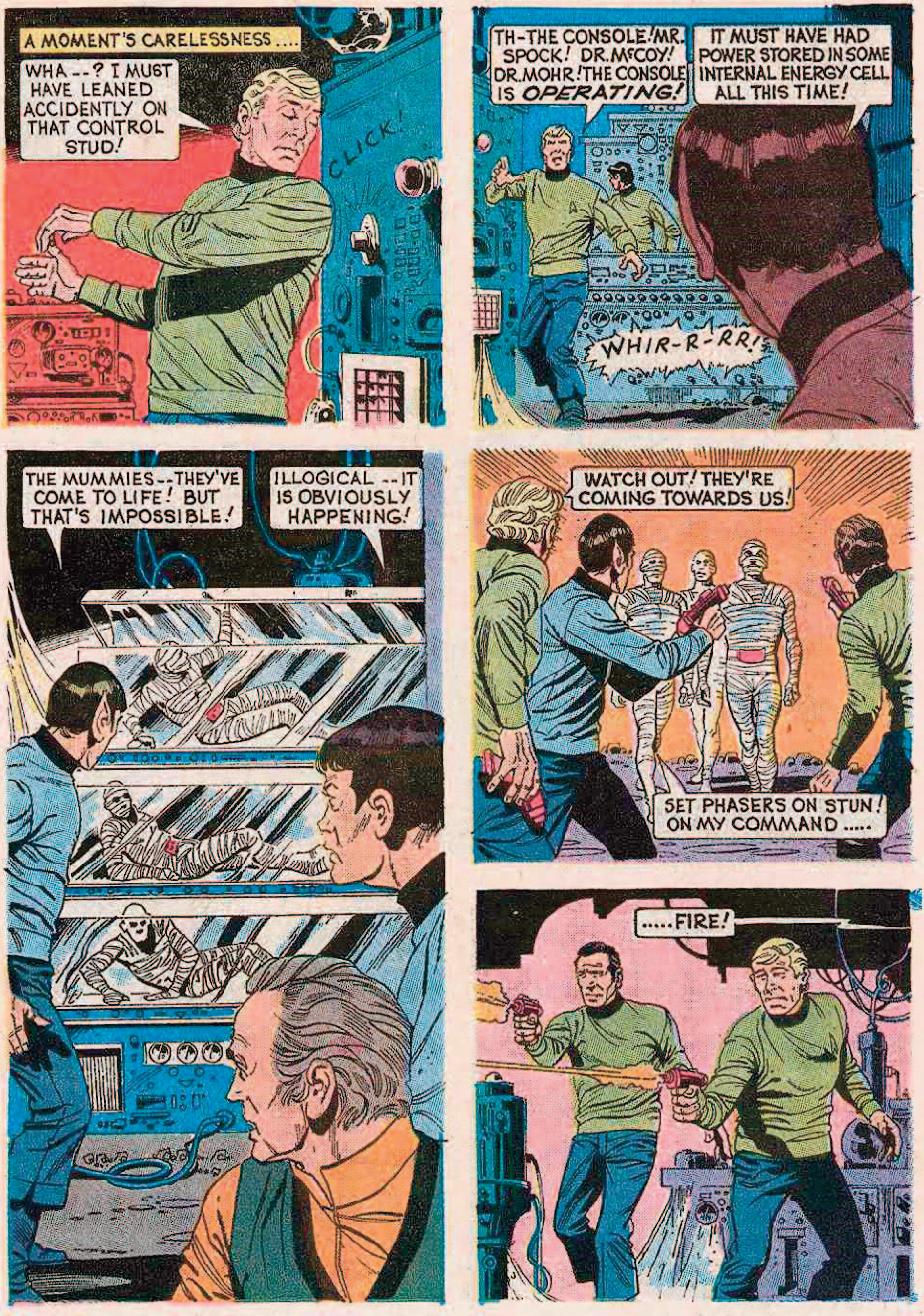

CAUTION-CENTRAL COMPUTER CORE
NO UNAUTHORIZED ADMITTANCE
BRIEF MOMENTS PASS! THE MUMMY MOVES SWIFTLY IN ITS TASK, DOING WHAT *MUST* BE DONE.....
....AND RETURNING ONCE AGAIN TO ITS "SARCOPHAGUS"!
MOMENTS LATER....
WOAH! WHAT HIT ME?
WHATEVER IT WAS, IT PACKED A MEAN WALLOP!
MANNING OF SECURITY, CAPTAIN! SOMEONE HIT US FROM BEHIND -- DIDN'T GET A LOOK AT WHO IT WAS!
THE MUMMY-- IS IT ALL RIGHT?

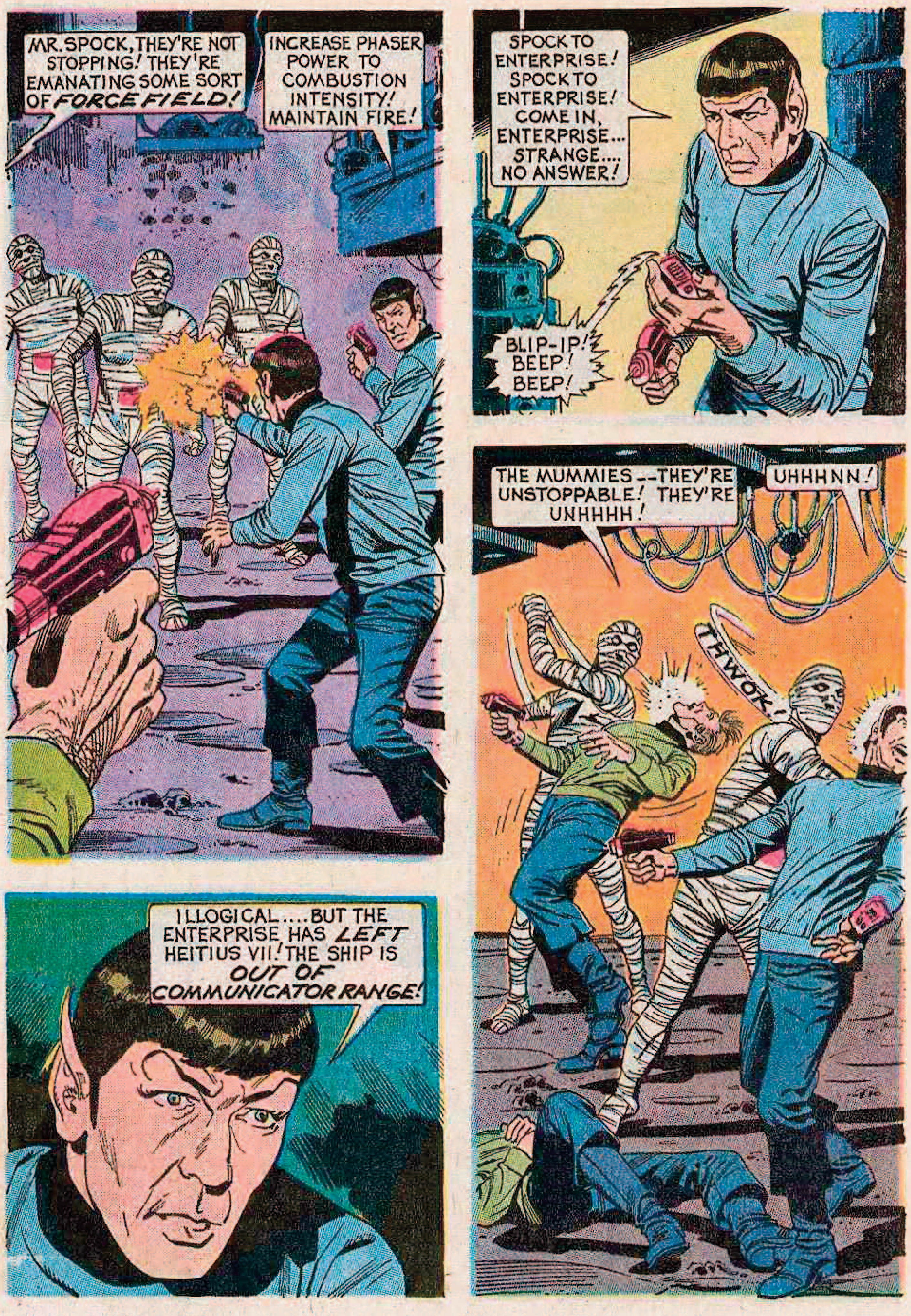

EVERYTHING CHECKS OUT! THE MUMMY HASN'T BEEN DISTURBED! NEITHER HAS ANYTHING ELSE IN THE ROOM!

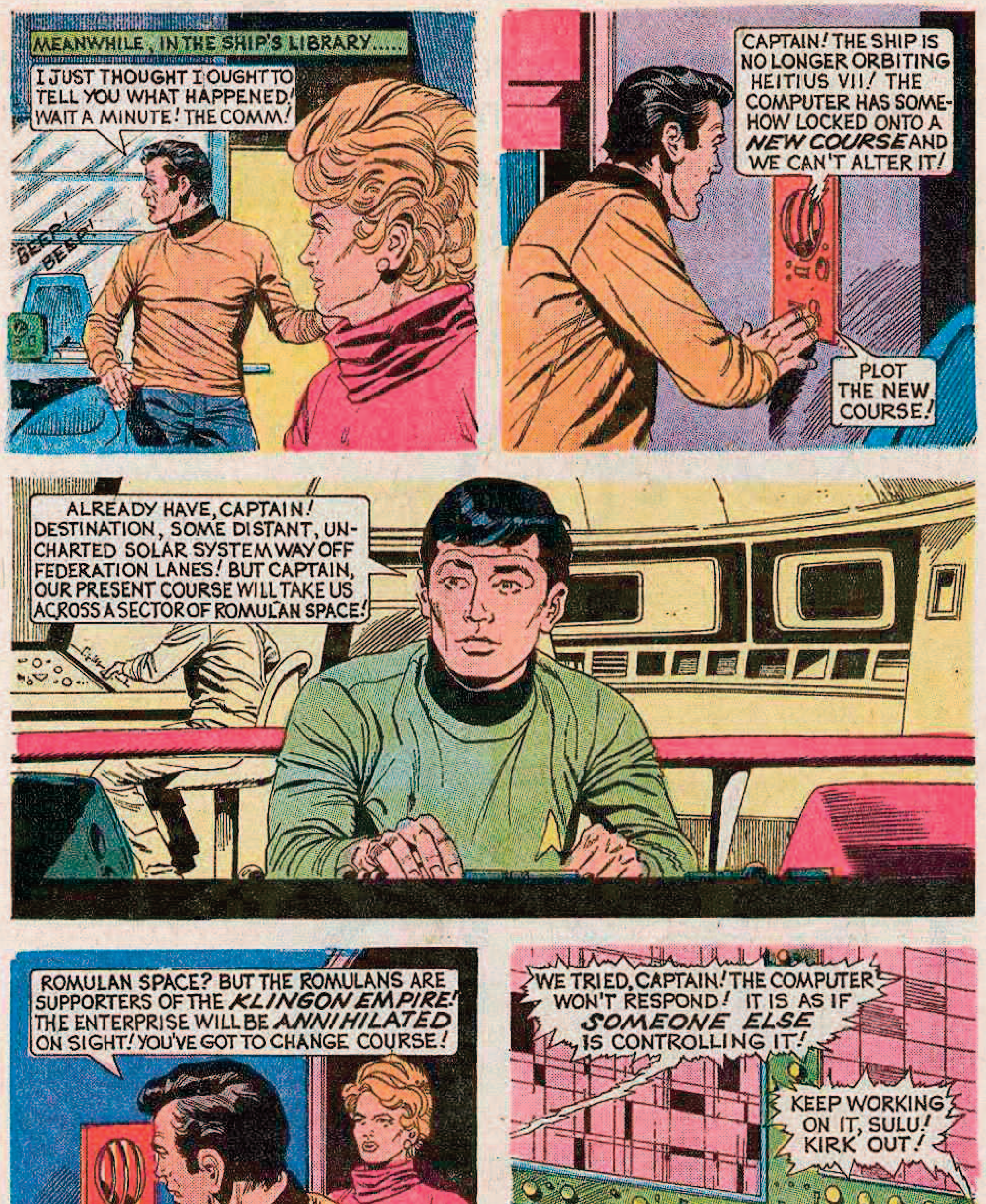

I WANT THE GUARD *DOUBLED!* I CAN'T THINK OF WHY ANYONE ON BOARD WOULD BE AFTER THE MUMMY, BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE THE CHANCE! KIRK OUT!

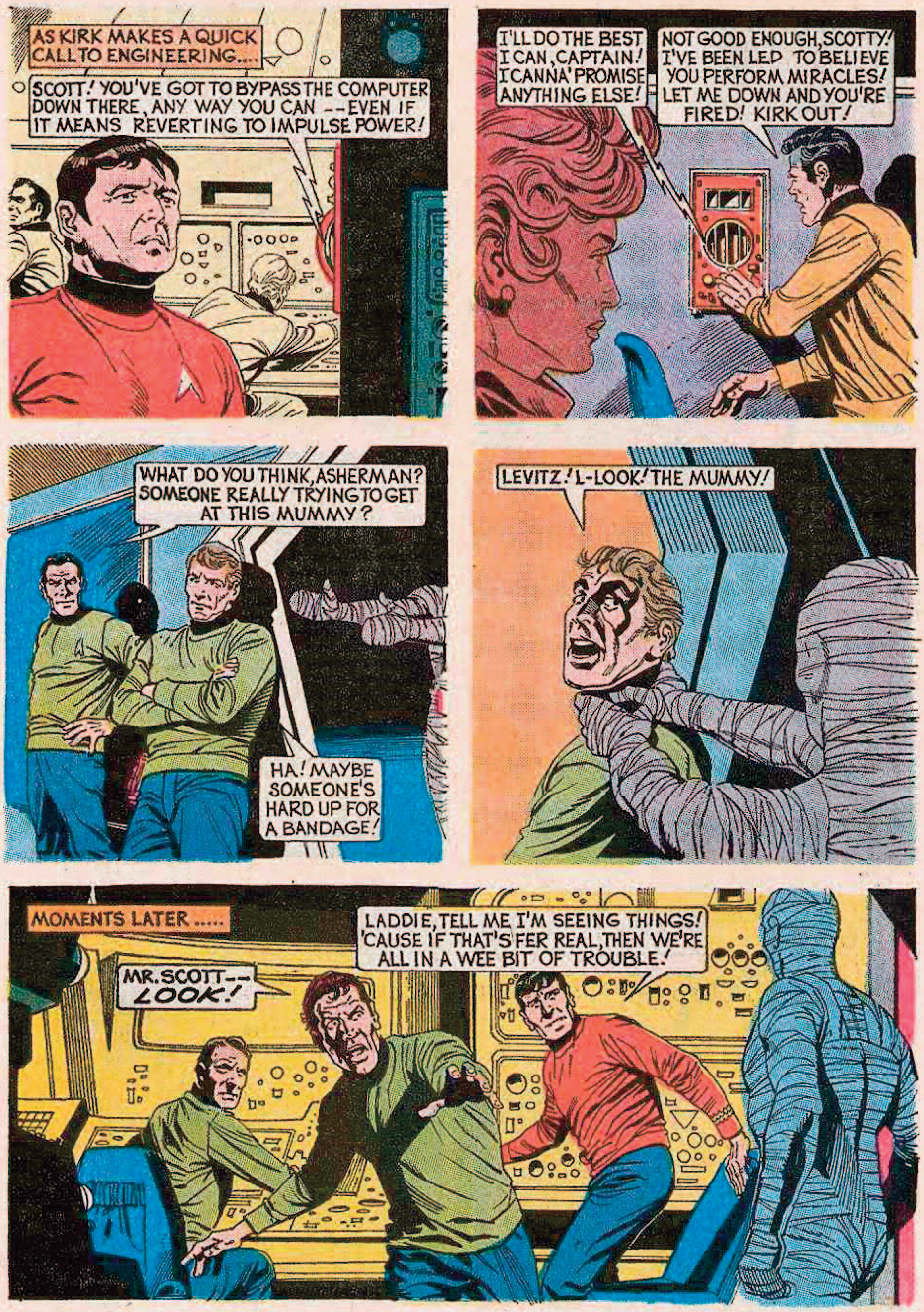

CAPTAIN'S LOG SUPPLEMENTARY! MR. SPOCK, DR. M^C COY AND TWO SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE BEING CONDUCTED ABOUT THE ANCIENT CITY ON HEITIUS VII! THIS PLANET IS A CLASS MZ ...... DEPLETED, STRIPPED OF ITS RESOURCES, IT IS NOW ONLY AN ARID DESERT!
ONE CAN IMAGINE HOW MAGNIFICENT THIS CITY WAS IN ITS DAY!

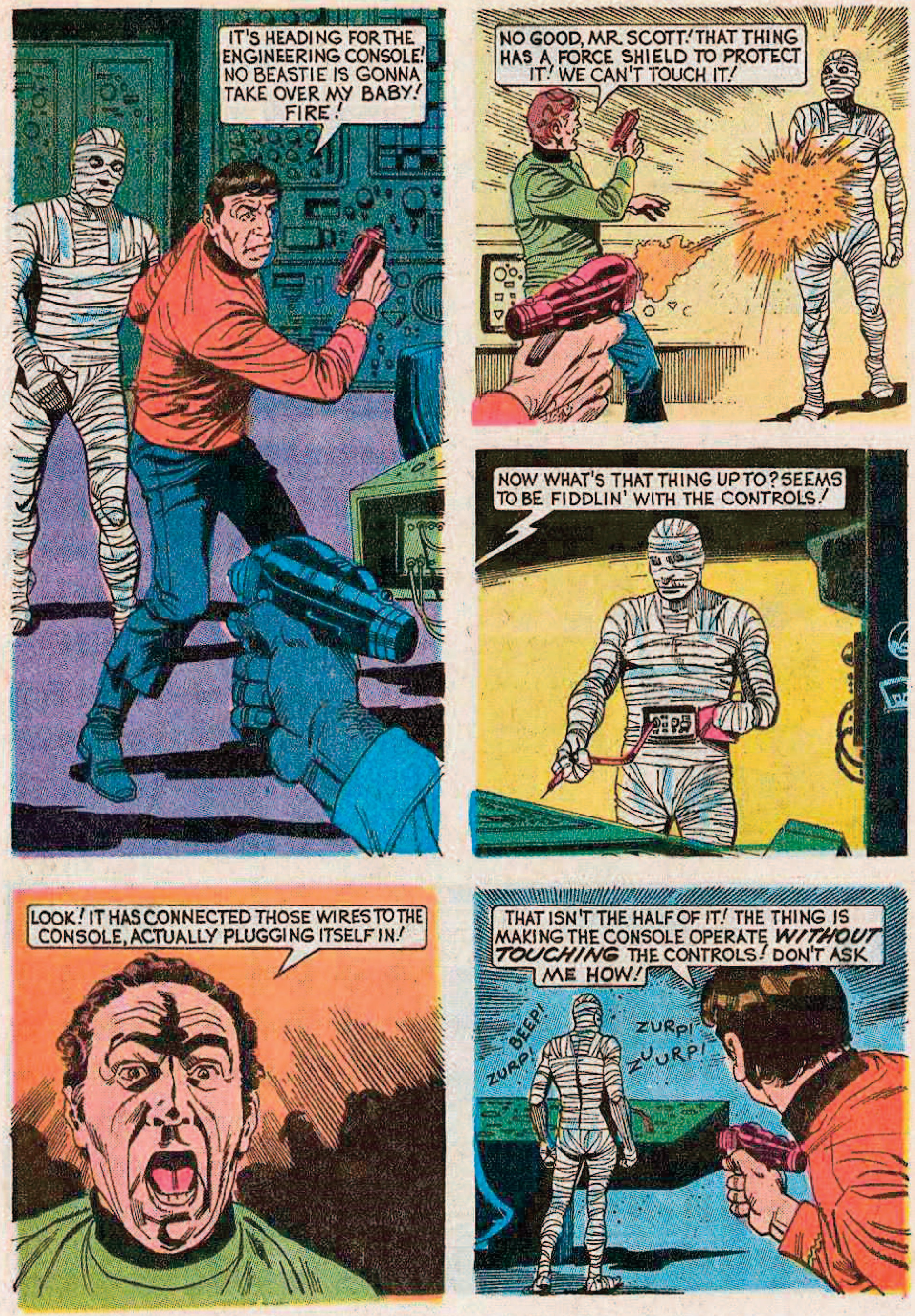

SUDDENLY.....
DR. MOHR! OVER HERE! QUICKLY!
DOWN HERE, DR. MOHR! WE WERE EXCAVATING THE LOWER CHAMBERS OF THIS PALACE AND WE CAME UPON -- WELL, SEE FOR YOURSELF!
FASCINATING! APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A RESEARCH LABORATORY, POSSIBLY HAVING TO DO WITH *SURGERY!*
LOOK! THREE MORE MUMMIES!
THAT'S NOT ALL!
IT WOULD APPEAR THIS WAS ONCE A *CELL!* BUT WAS IT FOR PRISONERS OR GUINEA PIGS!
HORRIBLE! FOR WHATEVER REASON THIS CHAMBER WAS SEALED OFF, THESE BEINGS WERE TRAPPED IN HERE!

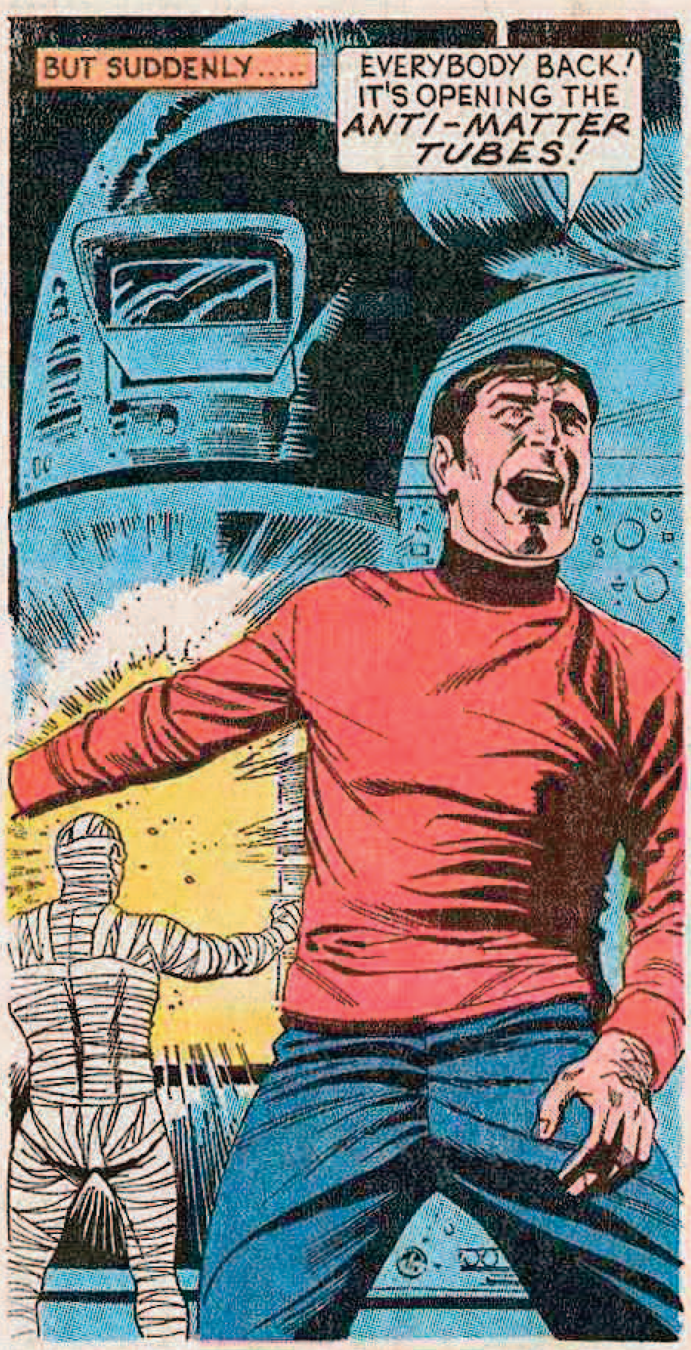

A MOMENT'S CARELESSNESS ....
WHA --? I MUST HAVE LEANED ACCIDENTLY ON THAT CONTROL STUD!
CLICK!
TH-THE CONSOLE! MR. SPOCK! DR. McCOY! DR. MOHR! THE CONSOLE IS OPERATING!
IT MUST HAVE HAD POWER STORED IN SOME INTERNAL ENERGY CELL ALL THIS TIME!
WHIR-R-RR!
THE MUMMIES--THEY'VE COME TO LIFE! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
ILLOGICAL --IT IS OBVIOUSLY HAPPENING!
WATCH OUT! THEY'RE COMING TOWARDS US!
SET PHASERS ON STUN! ON MY COMMAND .....
.....FIRE!

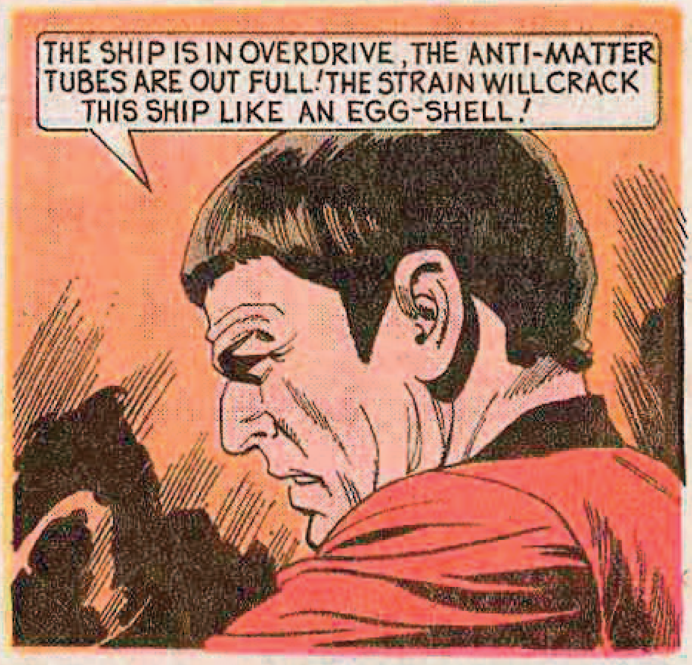

MR. SPOCK, THEY'RE NOT STOPPING! THEY'RE EMANATING SOME SORT OF *FORCE FIELD!*
INCREASE PHASER POWER TO COMBUSTION INTENSITY! MAINTAIN FIRE!
SPOCK TO ENTERPRISE! SPOCK TO ENTERPRISE! COME IN, ENTERPRISE... STRANGE.... NO ANSWER!
BLIP-IP! BEEP! BEEP!
ILLOGICAL....BUT THE ENTERPRISE HAS *LEFT* HEITIUS VII! THE SHIP IS *OUT OF COMMUNICATOR RANGE!*
THE MUMMIES--THEY'RE UNSTOPPABLE! THEY'RE UNHHHH!
UHHHNN!
THWOK!

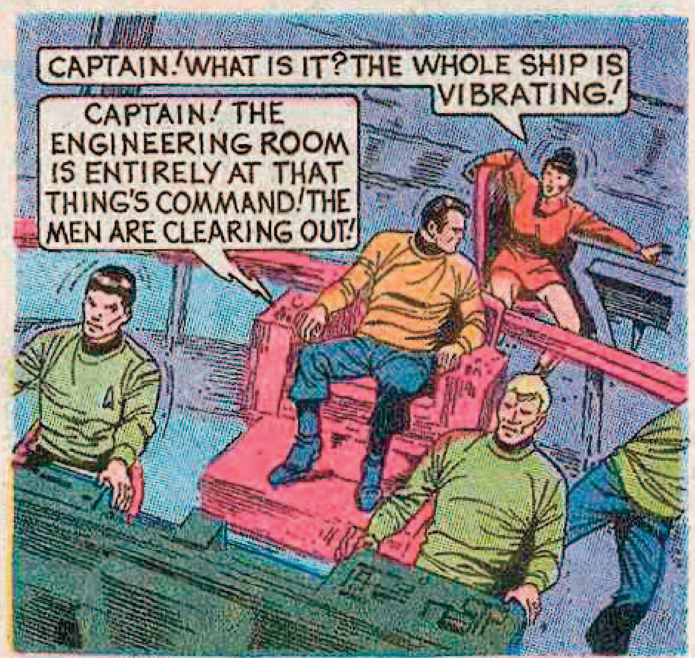

MEANWHILE, IN THE SHIP'S LIBRARY.....
I JUST THOUGHT I OUGHT TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED! WAIT A MINUTE! THE COMM!
BEEP! BEEP!
CAPTAIN! THE SHIP IS NO LONGER ORBITING HEITIUS VII! THE COMPUTER HAS SOMEHOW LOCKED ONTO A NEW COURSE AND WE CAN'T ALTER IT!
PLOT THE NEW COURSE!
ALREADY HAVE, CAPTAIN! DESTINATION, SOME DISTANT, UNCHARTED SOLAR SYSTEM WAY OFF FEDERATION LANES! BUT CAPTAIN, OUR PRESENT COURSE WILL TAKE US ACROSS A SECTOR OF ROMULAN SPACE!
ROMULAN SPACE? BUT THE ROMULANS ARE SUPPORTERS OF THE KLINGON EMPIRE! THE ENTERPRISE WILL BE ANNIHILATED ON SIGHT! YOU'VE GOT TO CHANGE COURSE!
WE TRIED, CAPTAIN! THE COMPUTER WON'T RESPOND! IT IS AS IF SOMEONE ELSE IS CONTROLLING IT!
KEEP WORKING ON IT, SULU! KIRK OUT!

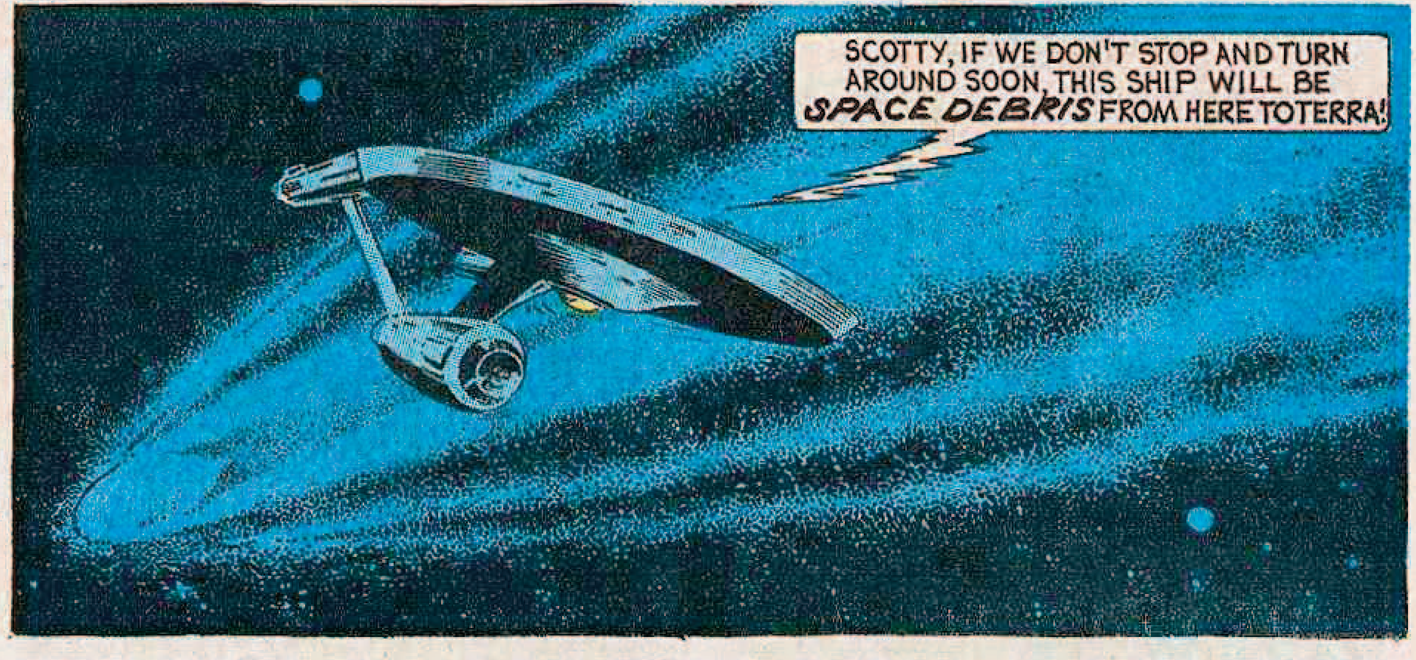

AS KIRK MAKES A QUICK CALL TO ENGINEERING....
SCOTT! YOU'VE GOT TO BYPASS THE COMPUTER DOWN THERE, ANY WAY YOU CAN --EVEN IF IT MEANS REVERTING TO IMPULSE POWER!
I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN, CAPTAIN! I CANNA' PROMISE ANYTHING ELSE!
NOT GOOD ENOUGH, SCOTTY! I'VE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE YOU PERFORM MIRACLES! LET ME DOWN AND YOU'RE FIRED! KIRK OUT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ASHERMAN? SOMEONE REALLY TRYING TO GET AT THIS MUMMY?
HA! MAYBE SOMEONE'S HARD UP FOR A BANDAGE!
LEVITZ! L-LOOK! THE MUMMY!
MOMENTS LATER.....
LADDIE, TELL ME I'M SEEING THINGS! 'CAUSE IF THAT'S FER REAL, THEN WE'RE ALL IN A WEE BIT OF TROUBLE!
MR. SCOTT-- LOOK!

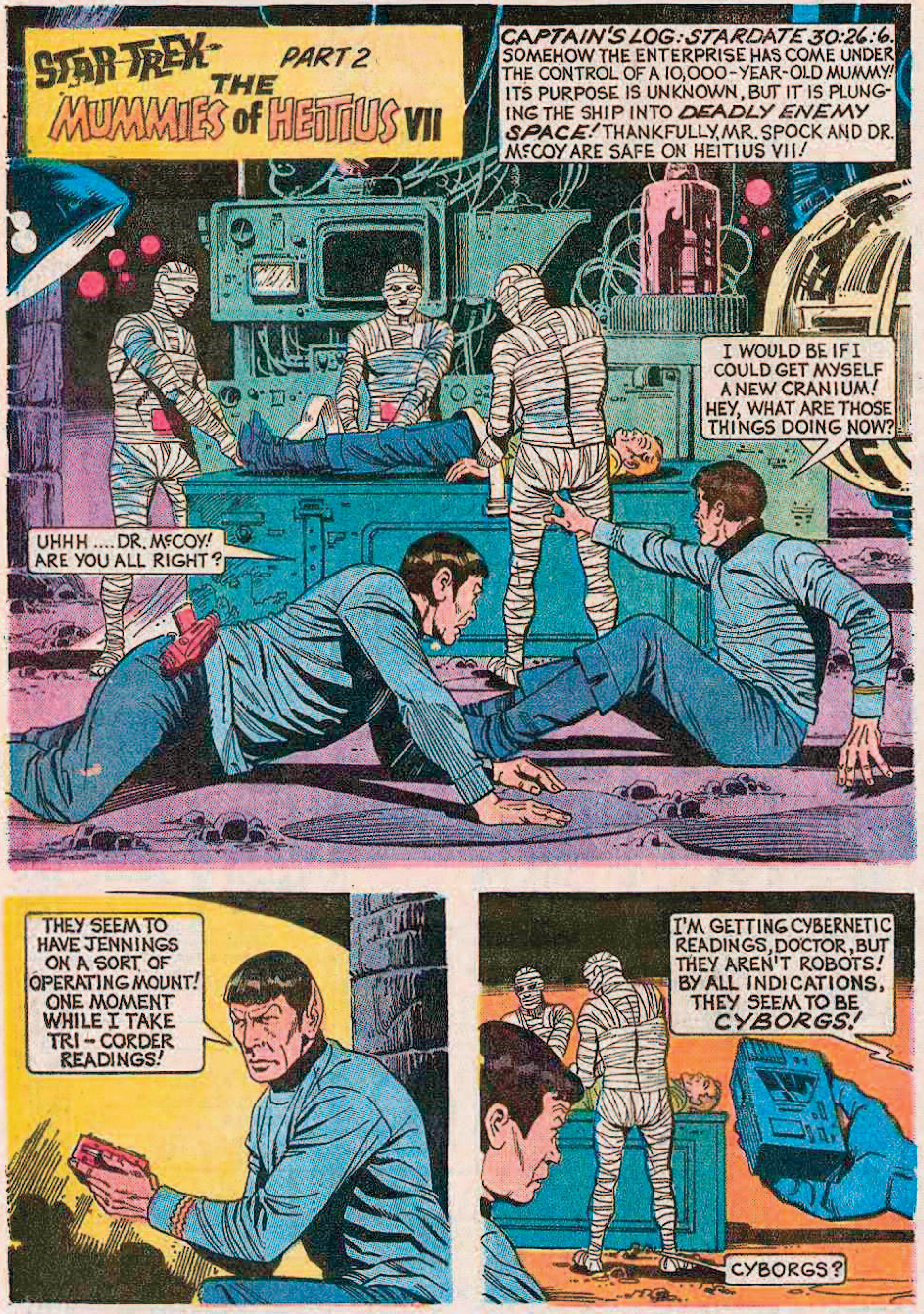

IT'S HEADING FOR THE ENGINEERING CONSOLE! NO BEASTIE IS GONNA TAKE OVER MY BABY! FIRE!
NO GOOD, MR. SCOTT! THAT THING HAS A FORCE SHIELD TO PROTECT IT! WE CAN'T TOUCH IT!
NOW WHAT'S THAT THING UP TO? SEEMS TO BE FIDDLIN' WITH THE CONTROLS!
LOOK! IT HAS CONNECTED THOSE WIRES TO THE CONSOLE, ACTUALLY PLUGGING ITSELF IN!
THAT ISN'T THE HALF OF IT! THE THING IS MAKING THE CONSOLE OPERATE WITHOUT TOUCHING THE CONTROLS! DON'T ASK ME HOW!
ZURP! BEEP!
ZURP! ZUURP!

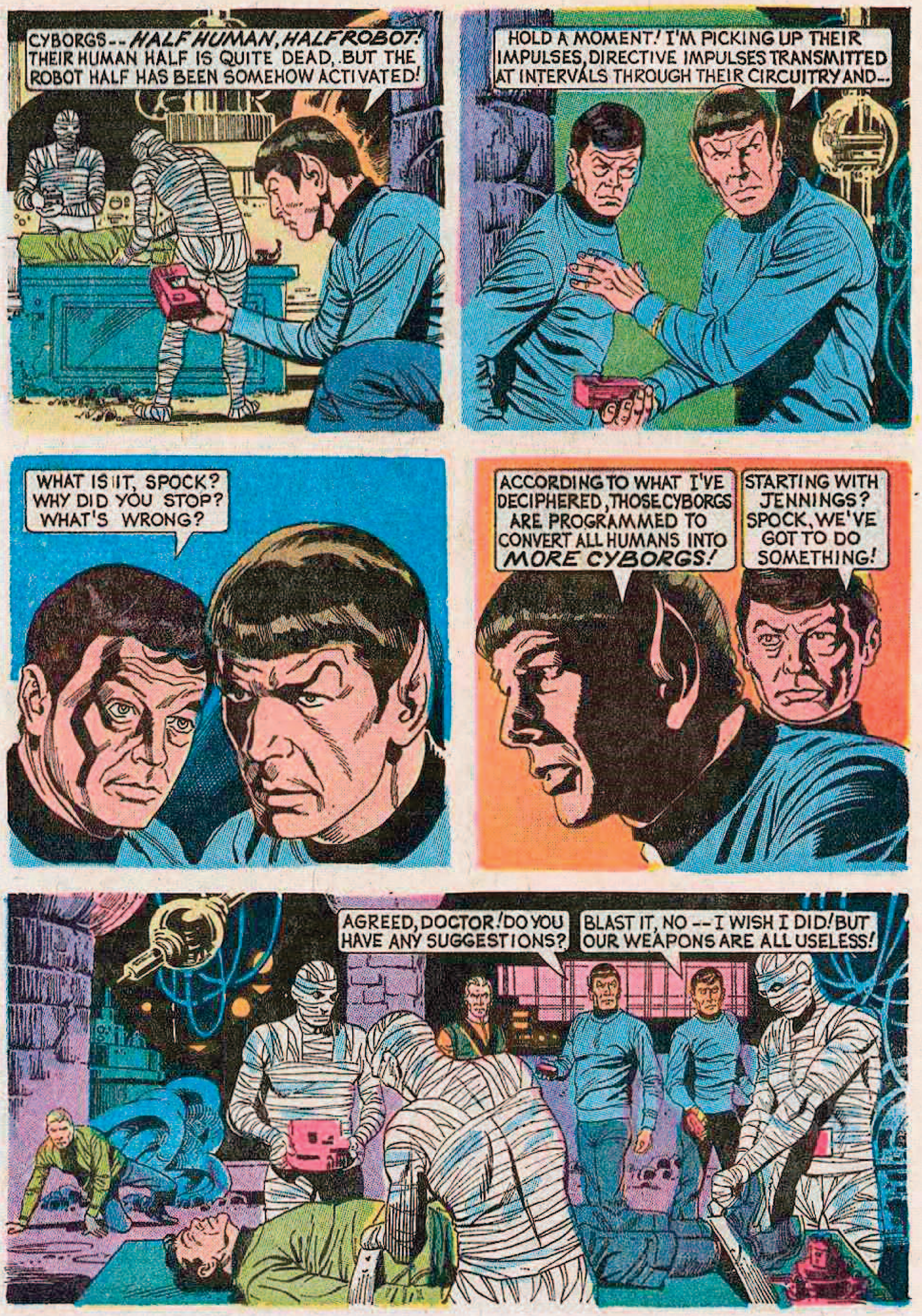

BUT SUDDENLY.....
EVERYBODY BACK! IT'S OPENING THE *ANTI-MATTER TUBES!*

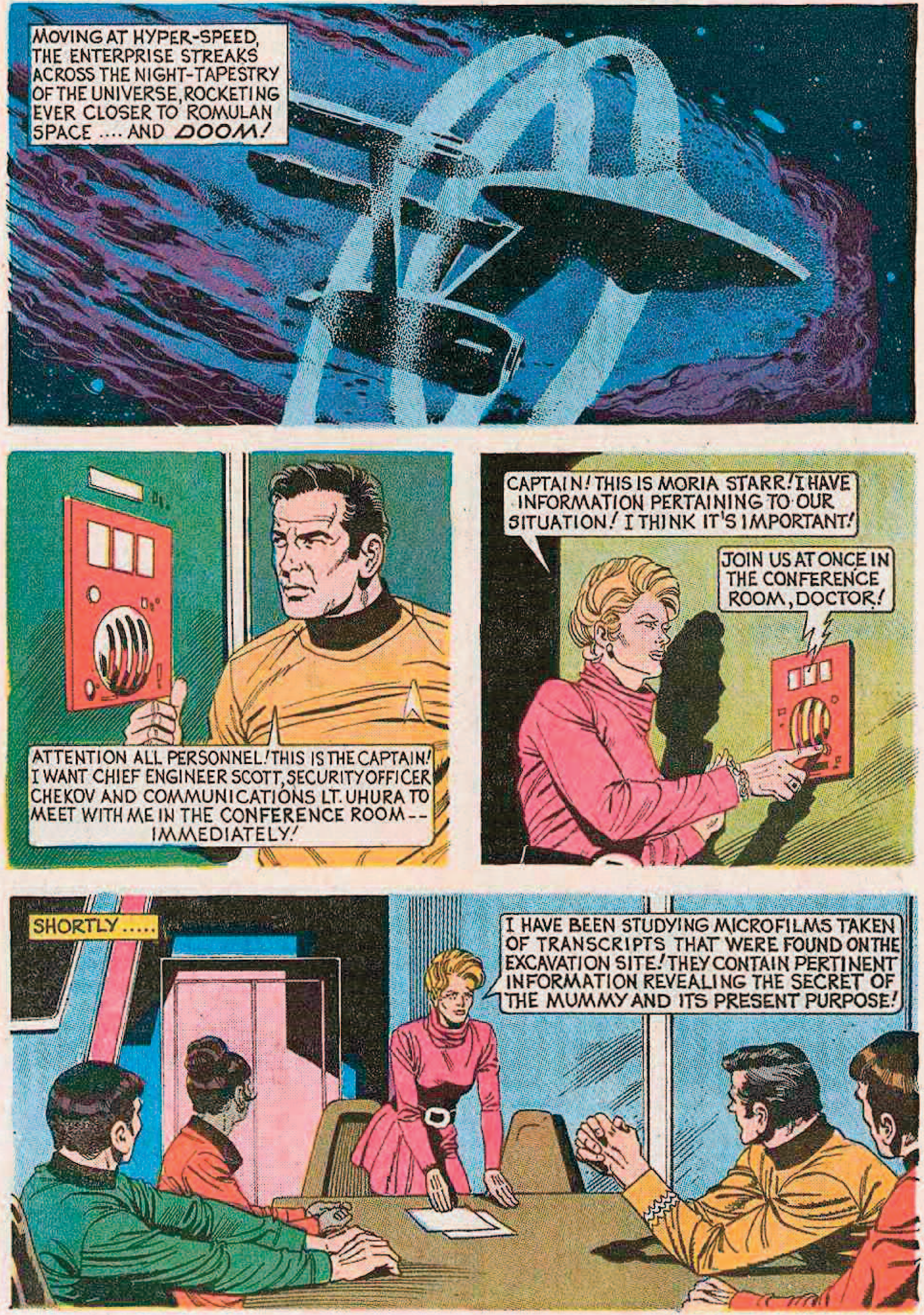

THE SHIP IS IN OVERDRIVE, THE ANTI-MATTER TUBES ARE OUT FULL! THE STRAIN WILL CRACK THIS SHIP LIKE AN EGG-SHELL!

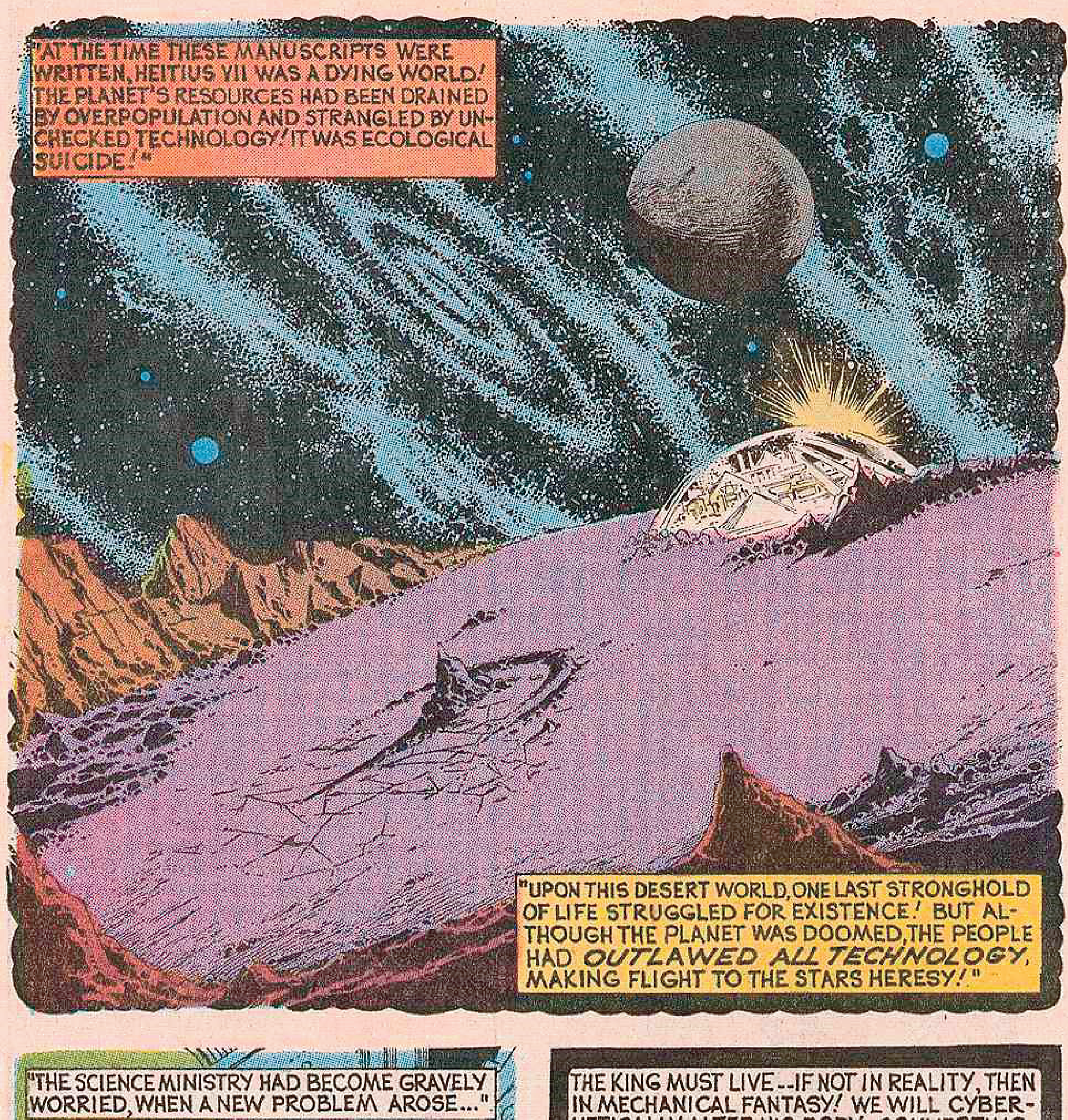

CAPTAIN! WHAT IS IT? THE WHOLE SHIP IS VIBRATING!
CAPTAIN! THE ENGINEERING ROOM IS ENTIRELY AT THAT THING'S COMMAND! THE MEN ARE CLEARING OUT!

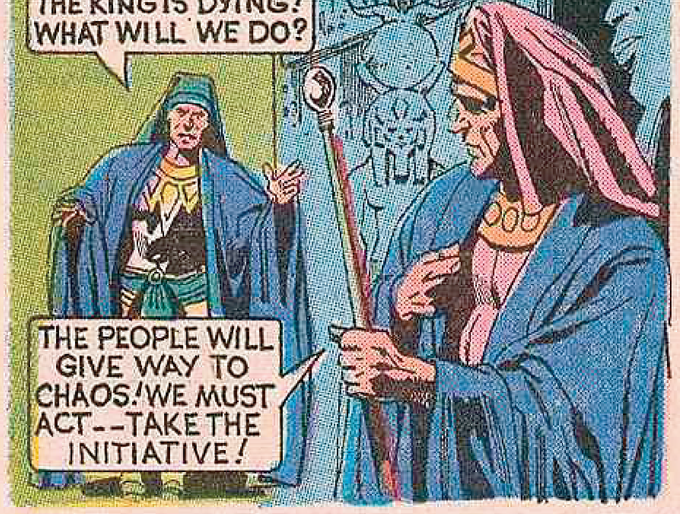

SCOTTY, IF WE DON'T STOP AND TURN AROUND SOON, THIS SHIP WILL BE *SPACE DEBRIS* FROM HERE TO TERRA!

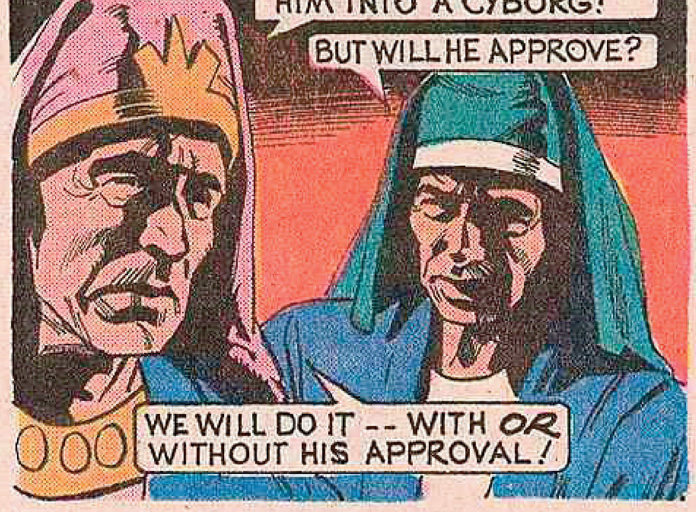

STAR TREK PART 2
THE MUMMIES of HEITIUS VII
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STARDATE 30:26:6. SOMEHOW THE ENTERPRISE HAS COME UNDER THE CONTROL OF A 10,000-YEAR-OLD MUMMY! ITS PURPOSE IS UNKNOWN, BUT IT IS PLUNGING THE SHIP INTO *DEADLY ENEMY SPACE!* THANKFULLY, MR. SPOCK AND DR. McCOY ARE SAFE ON HEITIUS VII!
UHHH .... DR. McCOY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I WOULD BE IF I COULD GET MYSELF A NEW CRANIUM! HEY, WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS DOING NOW?
THEY SEEM TO HAVE JENNINGS ON A SORT OF OPERATING MOUNT! ONE MOMENT WHILE I TAKE TRI-CORDER READINGS!
I'M GETTING CYBERNETIC READINGS, DOCTOR, BUT THEY AREN'T ROBOTS! BY ALL INDICATIONS, THEY SEEM TO BE *CYBORGS!*
CYBORGS?

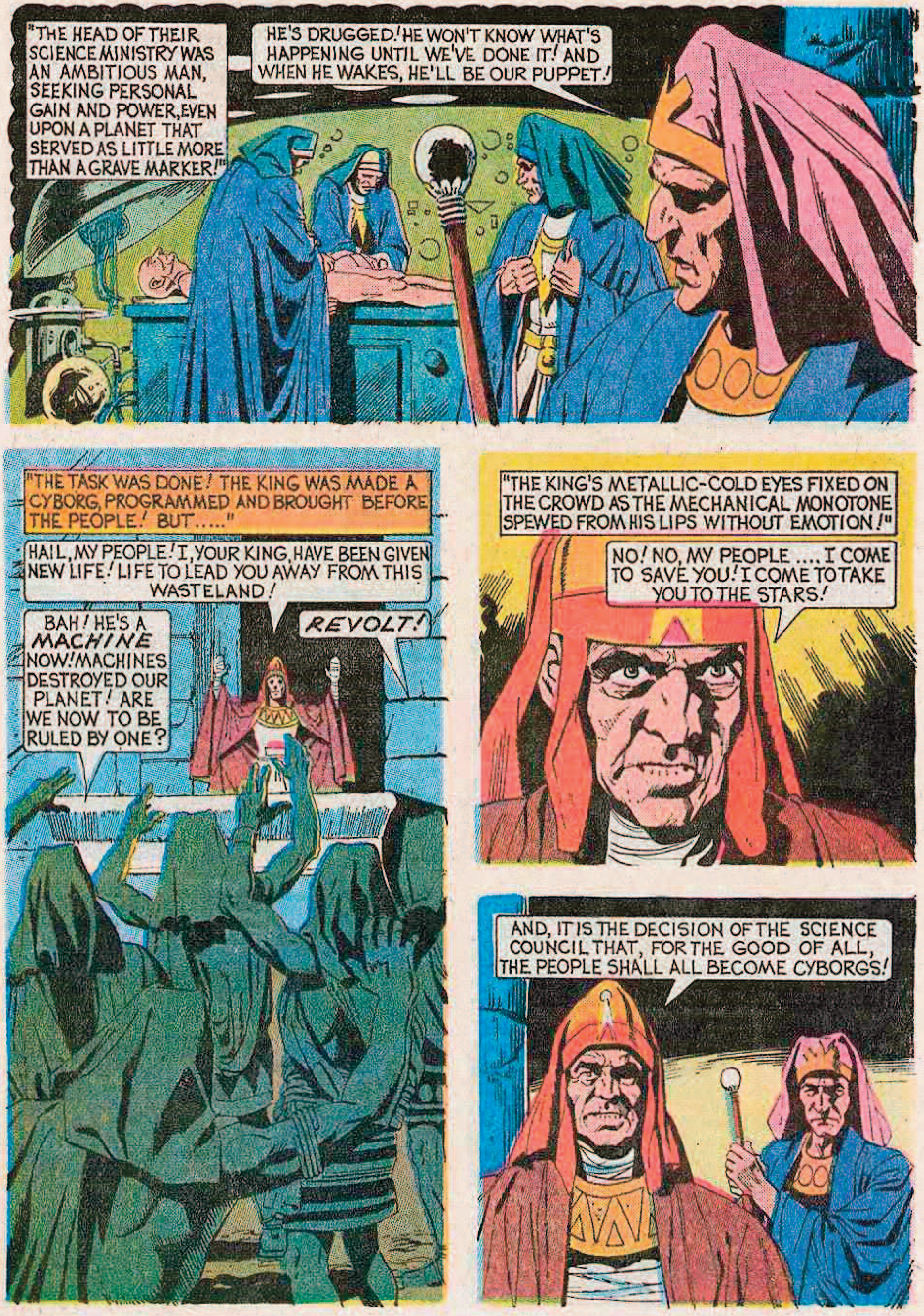

CYBORGS -- *HALF HUMAN, HALF ROBOT!* THEIR HUMAN HALF IS QUITE DEAD, BUT THE ROBOT HALF HAS BEEN SOMEHOW ACTIVATED!
HOLD A MOMENT! I'M PICKING UP THEIR IMPULSES, DIRECTIVE IMPULSES TRANSMITTED AT INTERVALS THROUGH THEIR CIRCUITRY AND --
WHAT IS IT, SPOCK? WHY DID YOU STOP? WHAT'S WRONG?
ACCORDING TO WHAT I'VE DECIPHERED, THOSE CYBORGS ARE PROGRAMMED TO CONVERT ALL HUMANS INTO *MORE CYBORGS!*
STARTING WITH JENNINGS? SPOCK, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
AGREED, DOCTOR! DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS?
BLAST IT, NO -- I WISH I DID! BUT OUR WEAPONS ARE ALL USELESS!

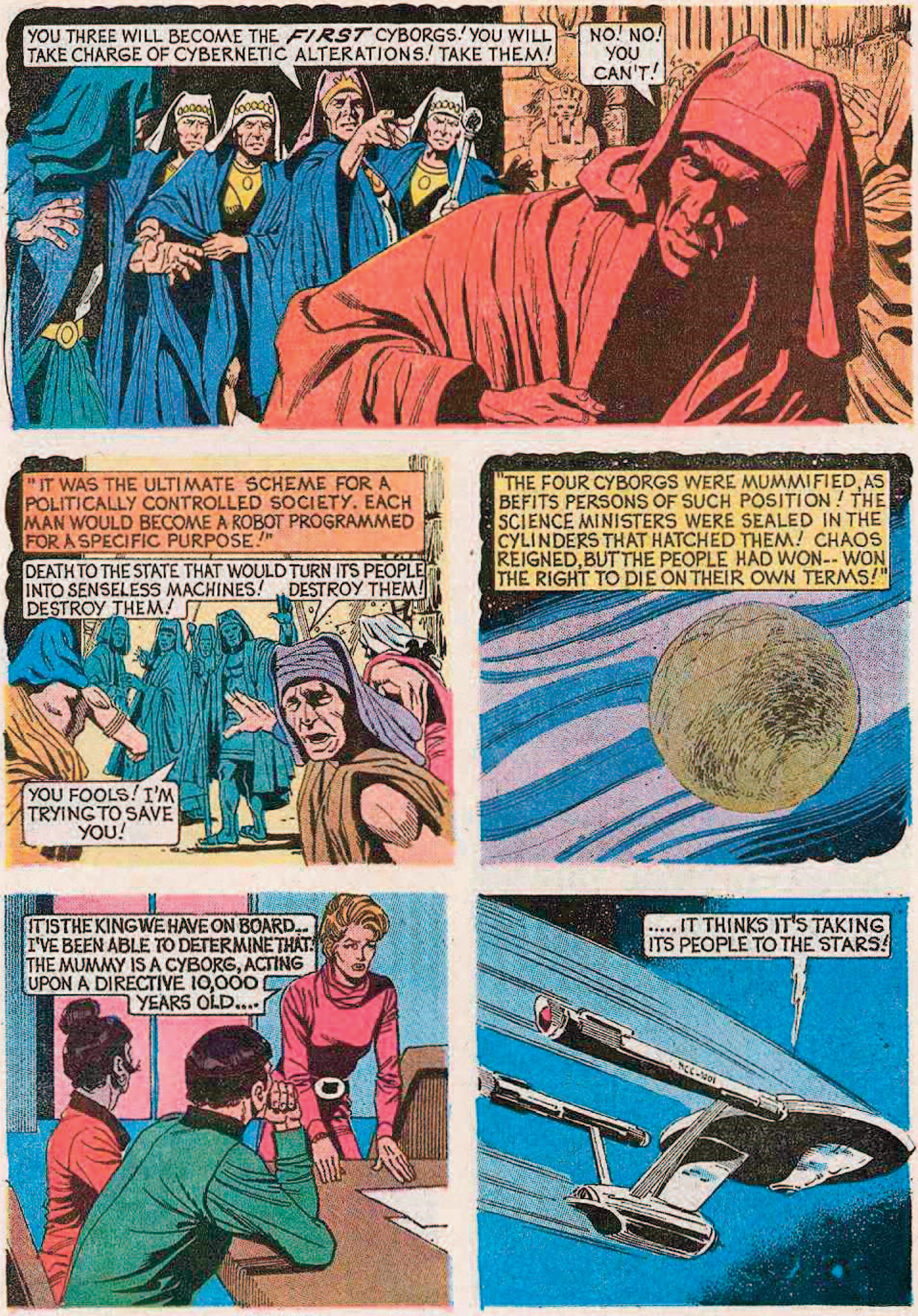

MOVING AT HYPER-SPEED, THE ENTERPRISE STREAKS ACROSS THE NIGHT-TAPESTRY OF THE UNIVERSE, ROCKETING EVER CLOSER TO ROMULAN SPACE .... AND *DOOM!*
ATTENTION ALL PERSONNEL! THIS IS THE CAPTAIN! I WANT CHIEF ENGINEER SCOTT, SECURITY OFFICER CHEKOV AND COMMUNICATIONS LT. UHURA TO MEET WITH ME IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM -- IMMEDIATELY!
CAPTAIN! THIS IS MORIA STARR! I HAVE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO OUR SITUATION! I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT!
JOIN US AT ONCE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, DOCTOR!
SHORTLY .....
I HAVE BEEN STUDYING MICROFILMS TAKEN OF TRANSCRIPTS THAT WERE FOUND ON THE EXCAVATION SITE! THEY CONTAIN PERTINENT INFORMATION REVEALING THE SECRET OF THE MUMMY AND ITS PRESENT PURPOSE!


"AT THE TIME THESE MANUSCRIPTS WERE WRITTEN, HEITIUS VII WAS A DYING WORLD! THE PLANET'S RESOURCES HAD BEEN DRAINED BY OVERPOPULATION AND STRANGLED BY UNCHECKED TECHNOLOGY! IT WAS ECOLOGICAL SUICIDE!"
"UPON THIS DESERT WORLD, ONE LAST STRONGHOLD OF LIFE STRUGGLED FOR EXISTENCE! BUT ALTHOUGH THE PLANET WAS DOOMED, THE PEOPLE HAD *OUTLAWED ALL TECHNOLOGY*, MAKING FLIGHT TO THE STARS HERESY!"


"THE SCIENCE MINISTRY HAD BECOME GRAVELY WORRIED, WHEN A NEW PROBLEM AROSE..."
THE KING IS DYING! WHAT WILL WE DO?
THE PEOPLE WILL GIVE WAY TO CHAOS! WE MUST ACT--TAKE THE INITIATIVE!


THE KING MUST LIVE--IF NOT IN REALITY, THEN IN MECHANICAL FANTASY! WE WILL CYBERNETICALLY ALTER HIS BODY, CONVERTING HIM INTO A CYBORG!
BUT WILL HE APPROVE?
WE WILL DO IT -- WITH *OR* WITHOUT HIS APPROVAL!


"THE HEAD OF THEIR SCIENCE MINISTRY WAS AN AMBITIOUS MAN, SEEKING PERSONAL GAIN AND POWER, EVEN UPON A PLANET THAT SERVED AS LITTLE MORE THAN A GRAVE MARKER!"
HE'S DRUGGED! HE WON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING UNTIL WE'VE DONE IT! AND WHEN HE WAKES, HE'LL BE OUR PUPPET!
"THE TASK WAS DONE! THE KING WAS MADE A CYBORG, PROGRAMMED AND BROUGHT BEFORE THE PEOPLE! BUT....."
HAIL, MY PEOPLE! I, YOUR KING, HAVE BEEN GIVEN NEW LIFE! LIFE TO LEAD YOU AWAY FROM THIS WASTELAND!
BAH! HE'S A MACHINE NOW! MACHINES DESTROYED OUR PLANET! ARE WE NOW TO BE RULED BY ONE?
REVOLT!
"THE KING'S METALLIC-COLD EYES FIXED ON THE CROWD AS THE MECHANICAL MONOTONE SPEWED FROM HIS LIPS WITHOUT EMOTION!"
NO! NO, MY PEOPLE .... I COME TO SAVE YOU! I COME TO TAKE YOU TO THE STARS!
AND, IT IS THE DECISION OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL THAT, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, THE PEOPLE SHALL ALL BECOME CYBORGS!


YOU THREE WILL BECOME THE *FIRST* CYBORGS! YOU WILL TAKE CHARGE OF CYBERNETIC ALTERATIONS! TAKE THEM!
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T!
"IT WAS THE ULTIMATE SCHEME FOR A POLITICALLY CONTROLLED SOCIETY. EACH MAN WOULD BECOME A ROBOT PROGRAMMED FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE."
DEATH TO THE STATE THAT WOULD TURN ITS PEOPLE INTO SENSELESS MACHINES!
DESTROY THEM!
DESTROY THEM!
YOU FOOLS! I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU!
"THE FOUR CYBORGS WERE MUMMIFIED, AS BEFITS PERSONS OF SUCH POSITION! THE SCIENCE MINISTERS WERE SEALED IN THE CYLINDERS THAT HATCHED THEM! CHAOS REIGNED, BUT THE PEOPLE HAD WON-- WON THE RIGHT TO DIE ON THEIR OWN TERMS!"
IT IS THE KING WE HAVE ON BOARD... I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT! THE MUMMY IS A CYBORG, ACTING UPON A DIRECTIVE 10,000 YEARS OLD....
.....IT THINKS IT'S TAKING ITS PEOPLE TO THE STARS!
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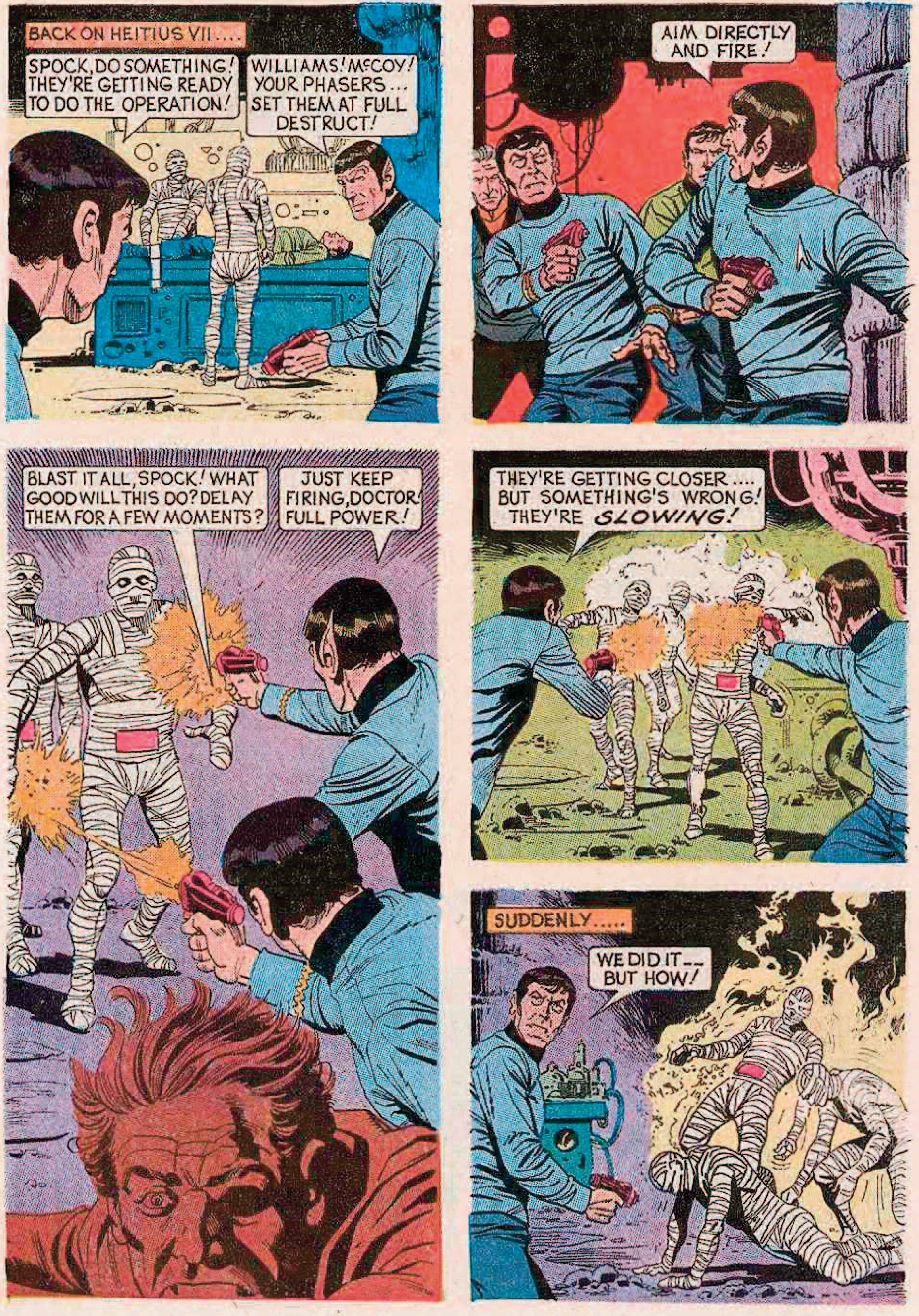
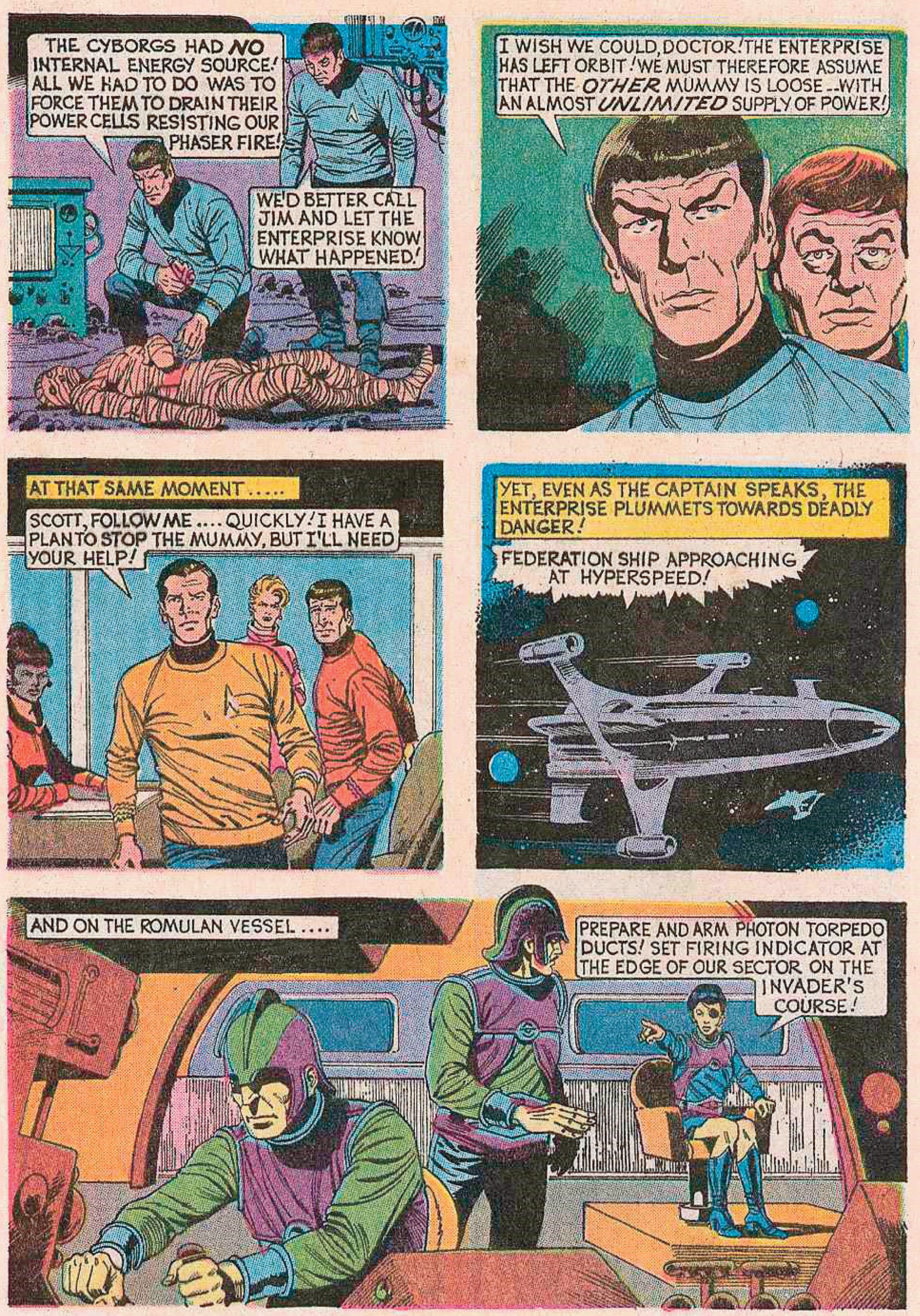
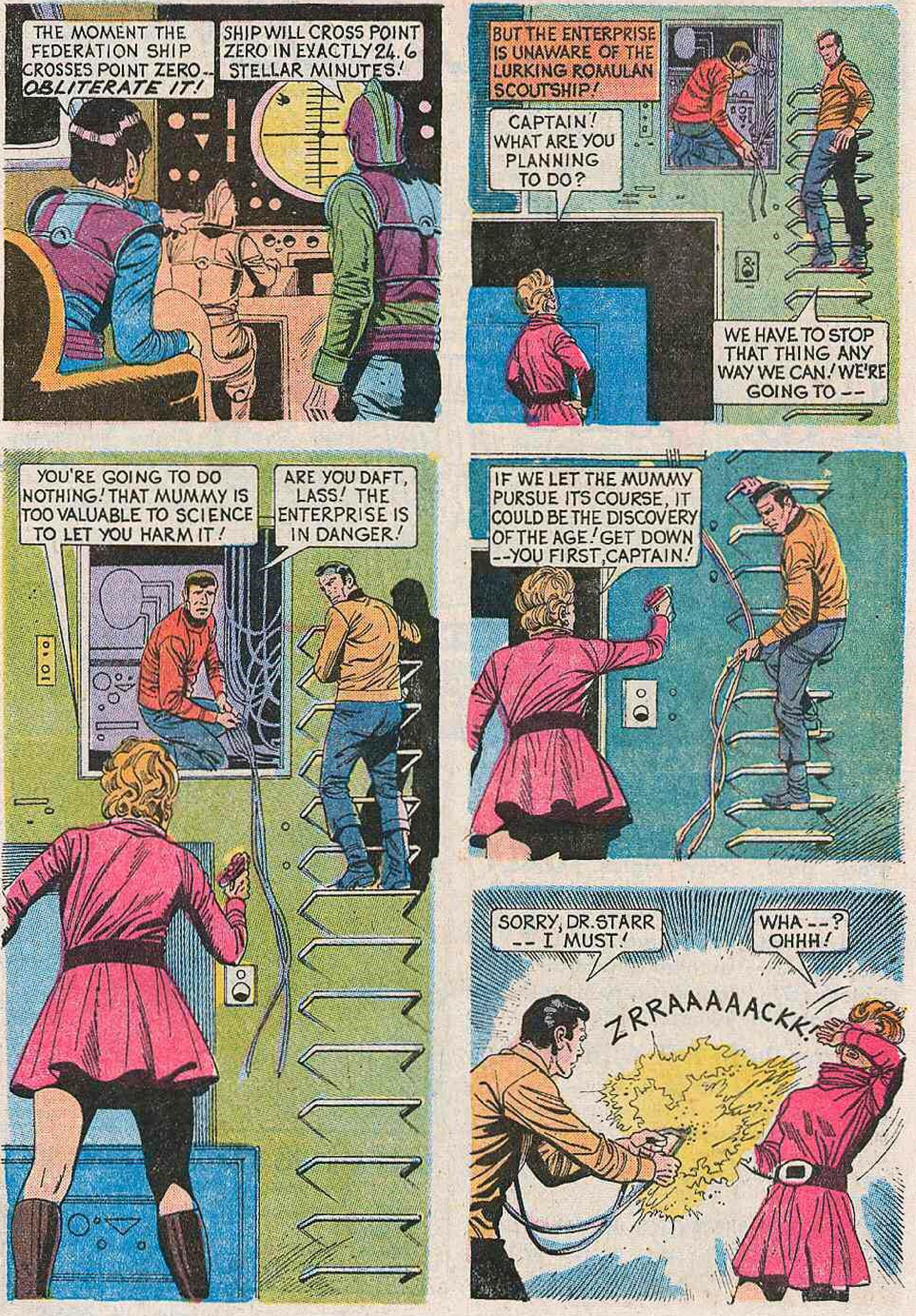
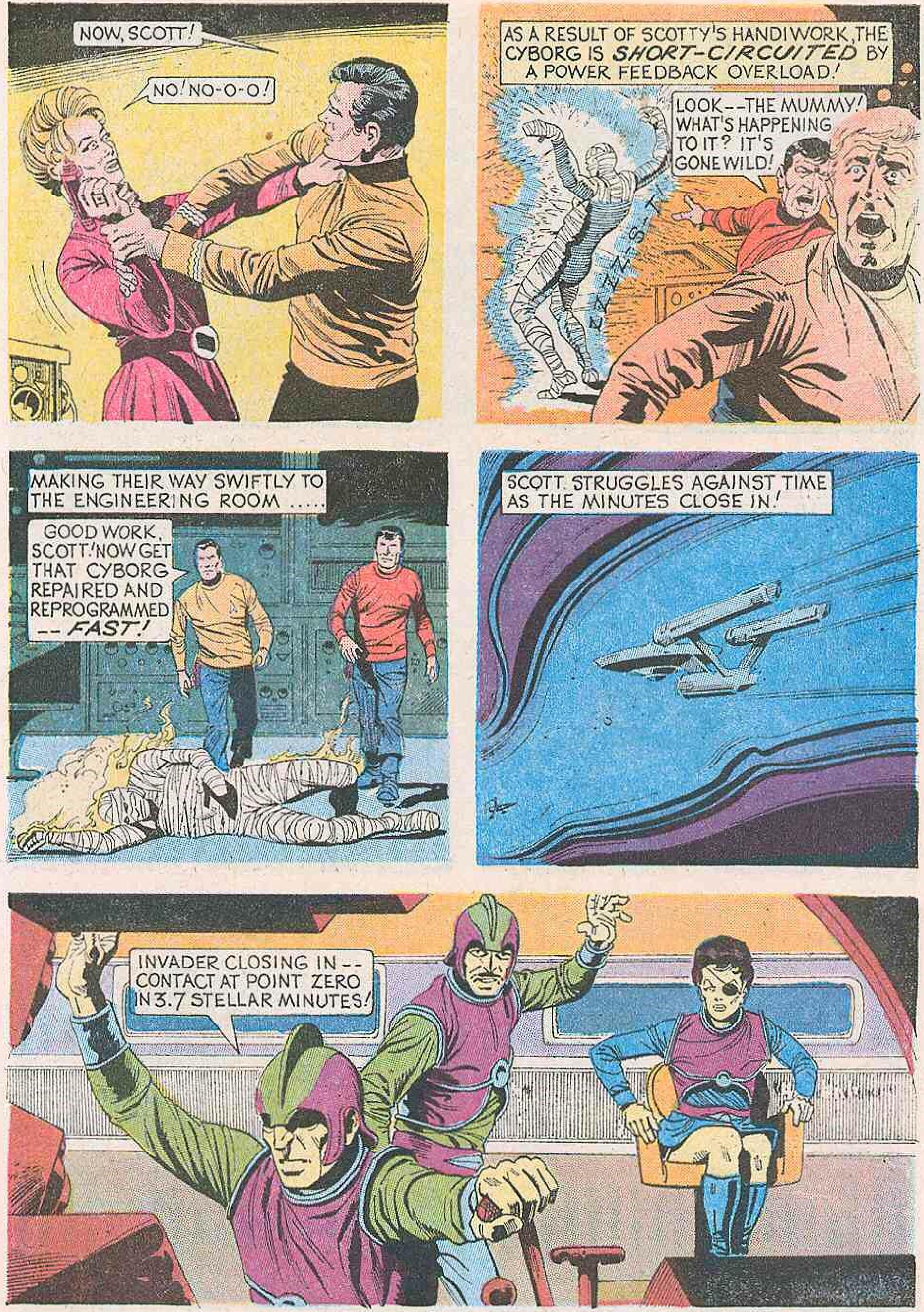
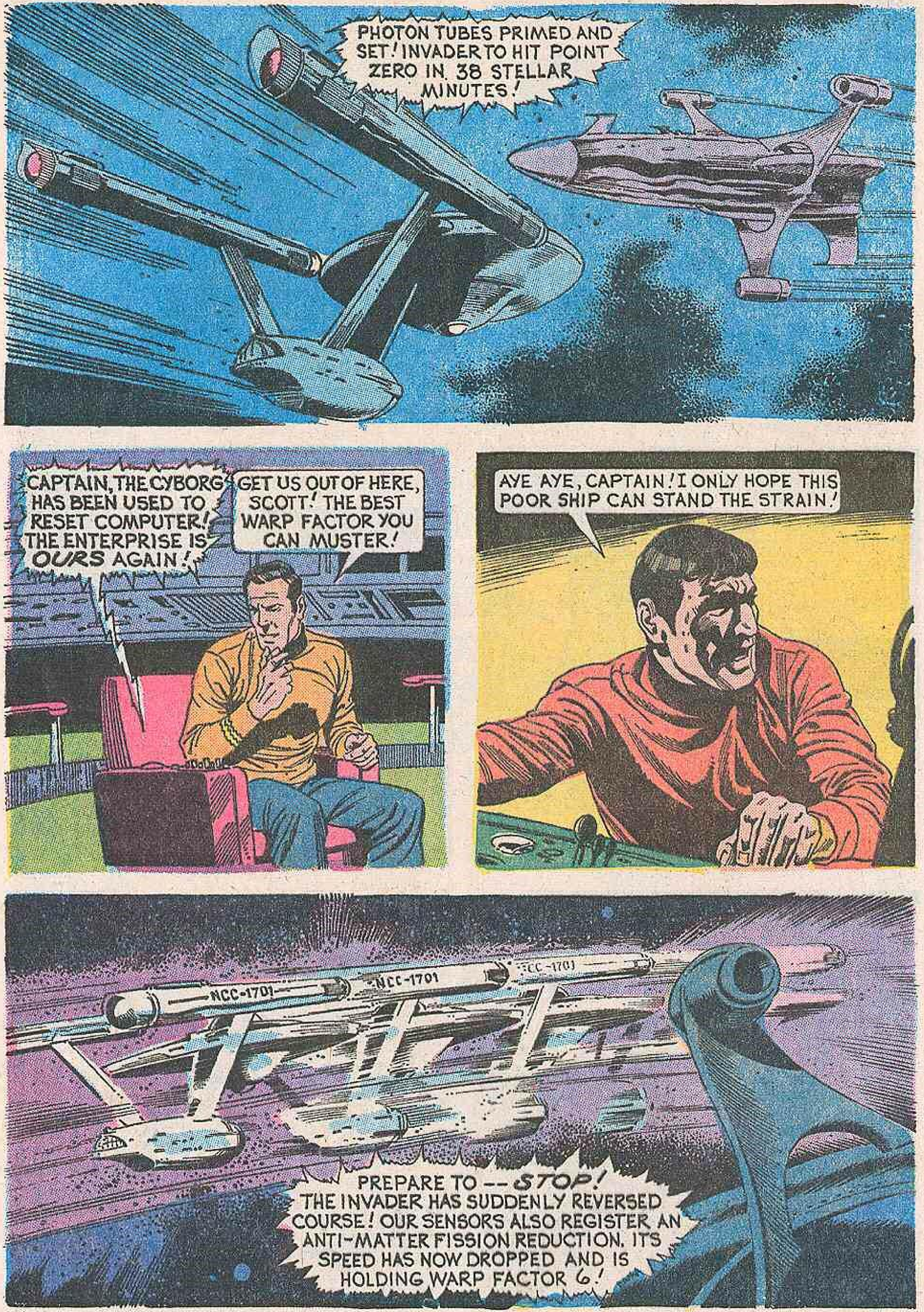
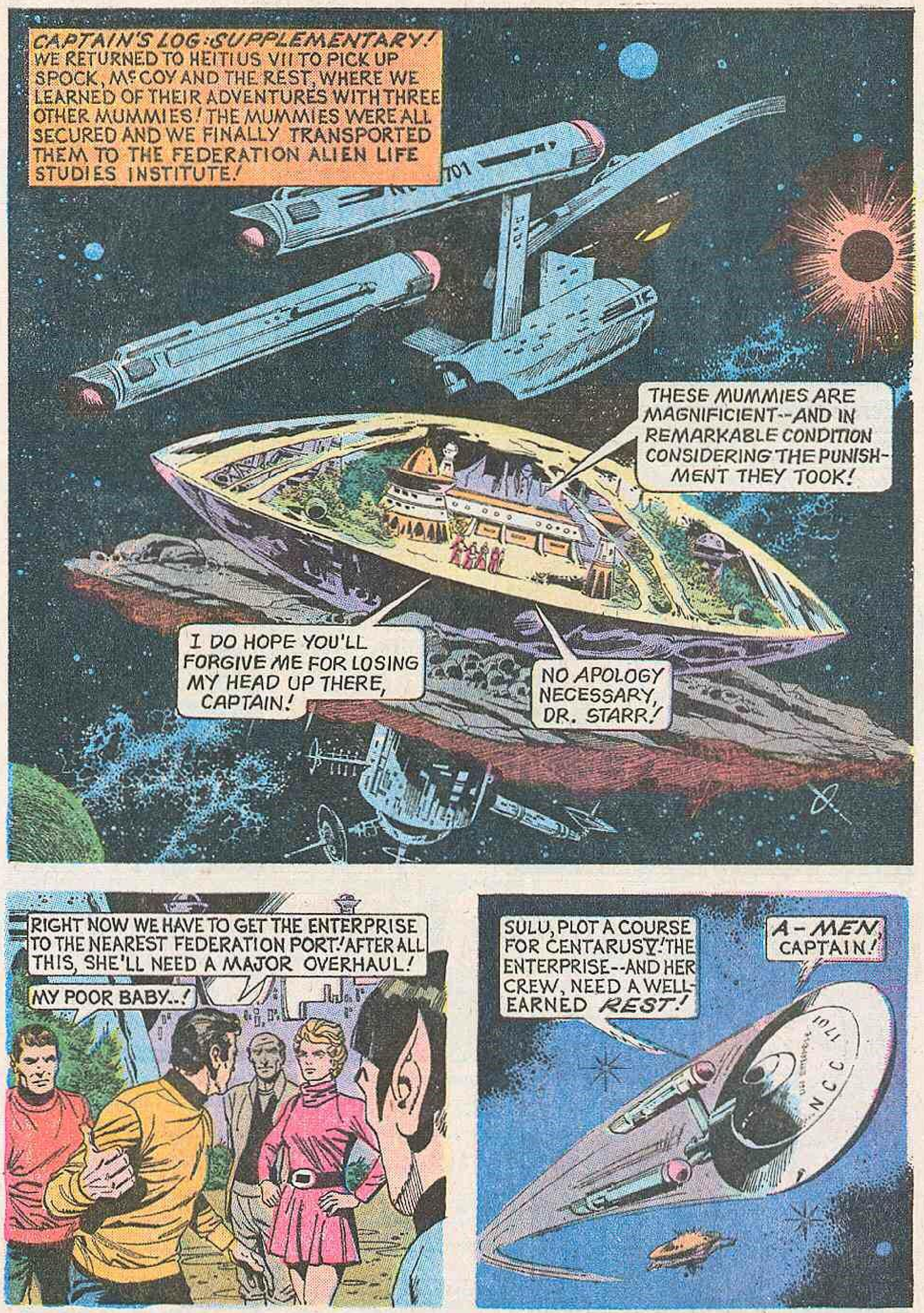

BACK ON HEITIUS VII....
SPOCK, DO SOMETHING! THEY'RE GETTING READY TO DO THE OPERATION!
WILLIAMS! McCOY! YOUR PHASERS... SET THEM AT FULL DESTRUCT!
AIM DIRECTLY AND FIRE!
BLAST IT ALL, SPOCK! WHAT GOOD WILL THIS DO? DELAY THEM FOR A FEW MOMENTS?
JUST KEEP FIRING, DOCTOR! FULL POWER!
THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER.... BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG! THEY'RE *SLOWING!*
SUDDENLY.....
WE DID IT -- BUT HOW!

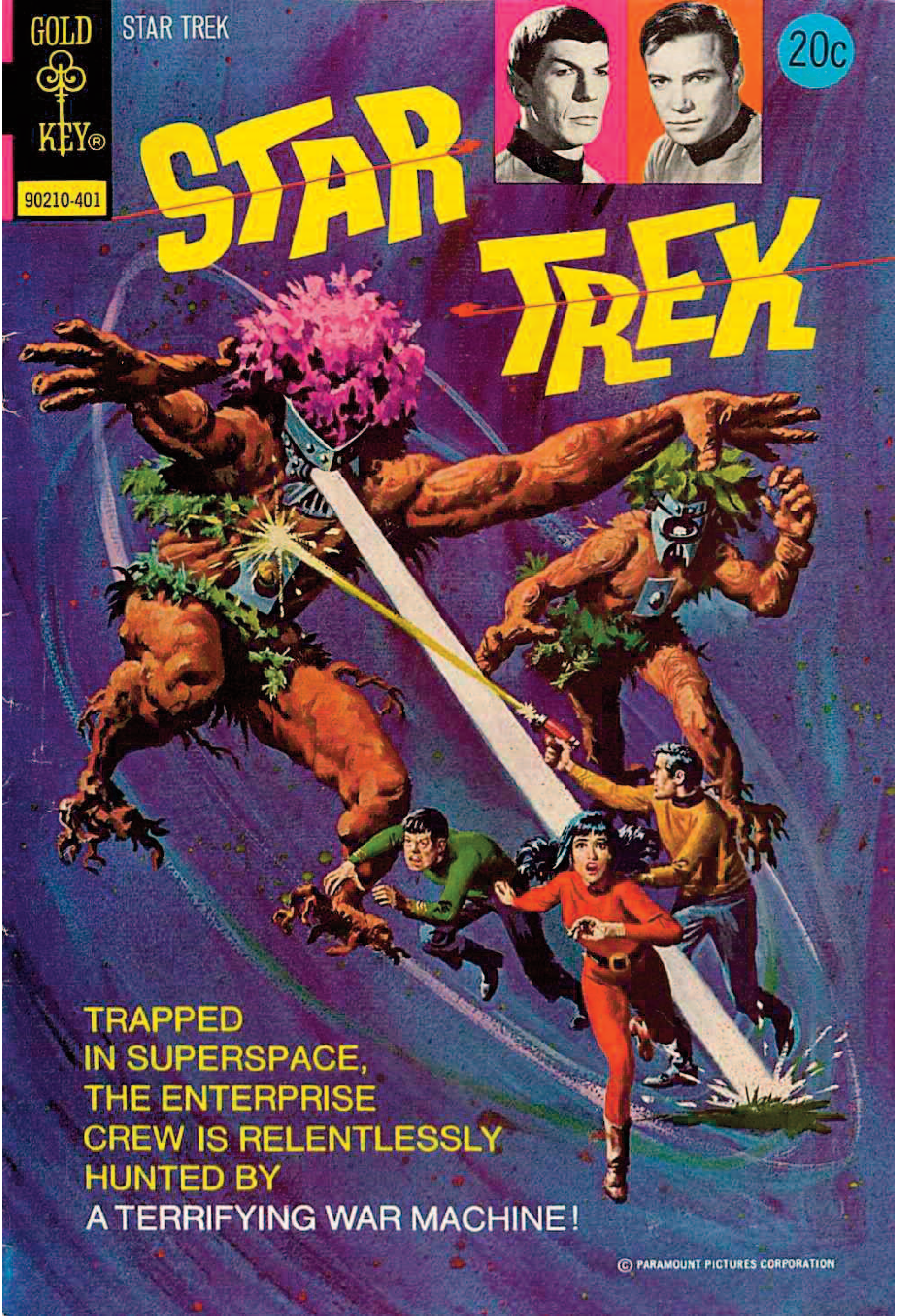

THE CYBORGS HAD **NO** INTERNAL ENERGY SOURCE! ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS TO FORCE THEM TO DRAIN THEIR POWER CELLS RESISTING OUR PHASER FIRE!
WE'D BETTER CALL JIM AND LET THE ENTERPRISE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!
I WISH WE COULD, DOCTOR! THE ENTERPRISE HAS LEFT ORBIT! WE MUST THEREFORE ASSUME THAT THE *OTHER* MUMMY IS LOOSE -- WITH AN ALMOST *UNLIMITED* SUPPLY OF POWER!
AT THAT SAME MOMENT .....
SCOTT, FOLLOW ME .... QUICKLY! I HAVE A PLAN TO STOP THE MUMMY, BUT I'LL NEED YOUR HELP!
YET, EVEN AS THE CAPTAIN SPEAKS, THE ENTERPRISE PLUMMETS TOWARDS DEADLY DANGER!
FEDERATION SHIP APPROACHING AT HYPERSPEED!
AND ON THE ROMULAN VESSEL ....
PREPARE AND ARM PHOTON TORPEDO DUCTS! SET FIRING INDICATOR AT THE EDGE OF OUR SECTOR ON THE INVADER'S COURSE!

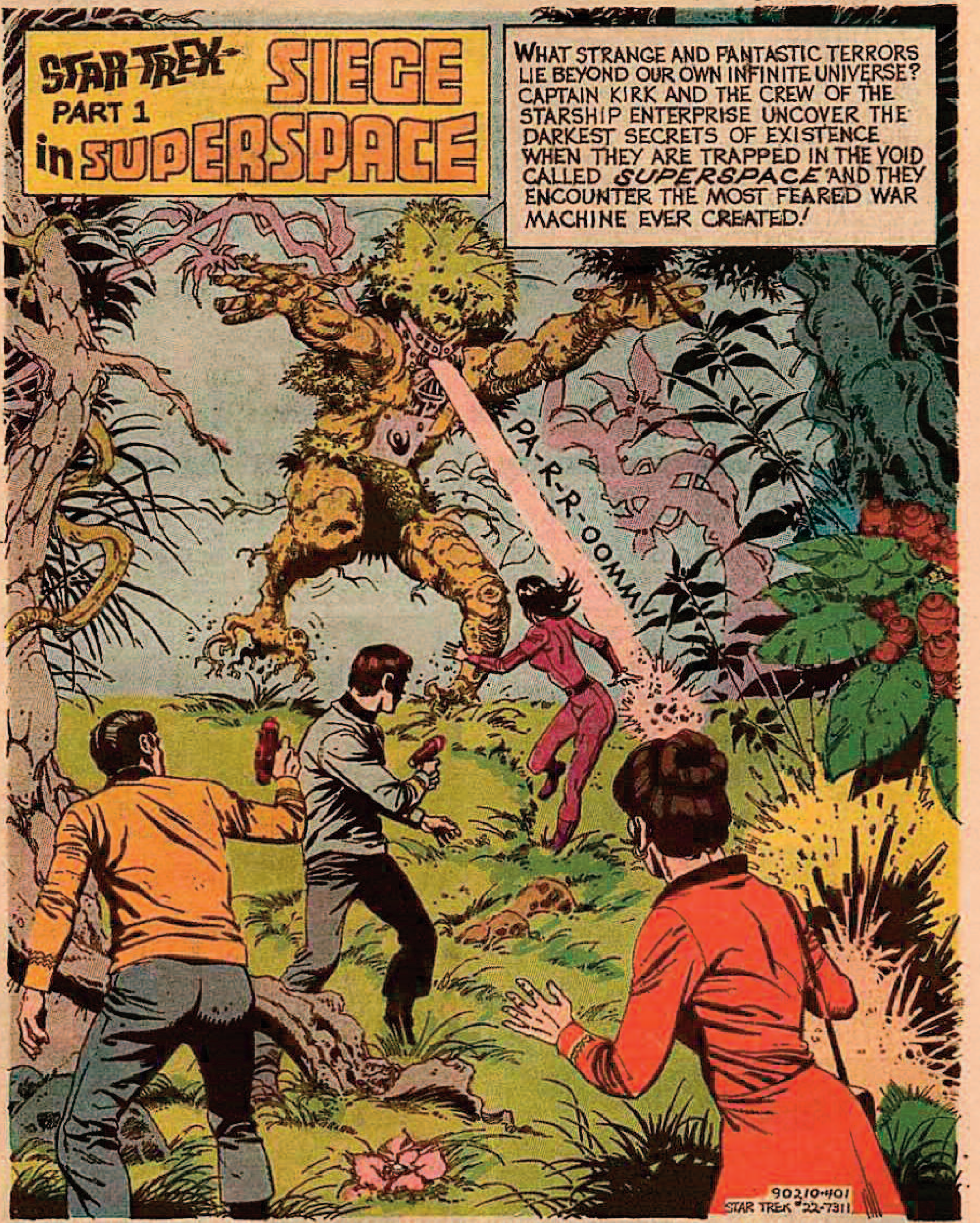

THE MOMENT THE FEDERATION SHIP CROSSES POINT ZERO-- *OBLITERATE IT!*
SHIP WILL CROSS POINT ZERO IN EXACTLY 24.6 STELLAR MINUTES!
BUT THE ENTERPRISE IS UNAWARE OF THE LURKING ROMULAN SCOUTSHIP!
CAPTAIN! WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
WE HAVE TO STOP THAT THING ANY WAY WE CAN! WE'RE GOING TO --
YOU'RE GOING TO DO NOTHING! THAT MUMMY IS TOO VALUABLE TO SCIENCE TO LET YOU HARM IT!
ARE YOU DAFT, LASS! THE ENTERPRISE IS IN DANGER!
IF WE LET THE MUMMY PURSUE ITS COURSE, IT COULD BE THE DISCOVERY OF THE AGE! GET DOWN --YOU FIRST, CAPTAIN!
SORRY, DR. STARR -- I MUST!
WHA--? OHHH!
ZRRAAAAACKK!


NOW, SCOTT!
NO! NO-O-O!
AS A RESULT OF SCOTTY'S HANDIWORK, THE CYBORG IS *SHORT-CIRCUITED* BY A POWER FEEDBACK OVERLOAD!
LOOK--THE MUMMY! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO IT? IT'S GONE WILD!
MAKING THEIR WAY SWIFTLY TO THE ENGINEERING ROOM .....
GOOD WORK, SCOTT! NOW GET THAT CYBORG REPAIRED AND REPROGRAMMED --*FAST!*
SCOTT STRUGGLES AGAINST TIME AS THE MINUTES CLOSE IN!
INVADER CLOSING IN--CONTACT AT POINT ZERO IN 3.7 STELLAR MINUTES!


PHOTON TUBES PRIMED AND SET! INVADER TO HIT POINT ZERO IN 38 STELLAR MINUTES!
CAPTAIN, THE CYBORG HAS BEEN USED TO RESET COMPUTER! THE ENTERPRISE IS *OURS* AGAIN!
GET US OUT OF HERE, SCOTT! THE BEST WARP FACTOR YOU CAN MUSTER!
AYE AYE, CAPTAIN! I ONLY HOPE THIS POOR SHIP CAN STAND THE STRAIN!
NCC-1701
NCC-1701
CC-1701
PREPARE TO -- *STOP!* THE INVADER HAS SUDDENLY REVERSED COURSE! OUR SENSORS ALSO REGISTER AN ANTI-MATTER FISSION REDUCTION. ITS SPEED HAS NOW DROPPED AND IS HOLDING WARP FACTOR 6!


CAPTAIN'S LOG: SUPPLEMENTARY! WE RETURNED TO HEITIUS VII TO PICK UP SPOCK, McCOY AND THE REST, WHERE WE LEARNED OF THEIR ADVENTURES WITH THREE OTHER MUMMIES! THE MUMMIES WERE ALL SECURED AND WE FINALLY TRANSPORTED THEM TO THE FEDERATION ALIEN LIFE STUDIES INSTITUTE!
THESE MUMMIES ARE MAGNIFICIENT--AND IN REMARKABLE CONDITION CONSIDERING THE PUNISHMENT THEY TOOK!
I DO HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR LOSING MY HEAD UP THERE, CAPTAIN!
NO APOLOGY NECESSARY, DR. STARR!
RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TO GET THE ENTERPRISE TO THE NEAREST FEDERATION PORT! AFTER ALL THIS, SHE'LL NEED A MAJOR OVERHAUL!
MY POOR BABY..!
SULU, PLOT A COURSE FOR CENTARUS V! THE ENTERPRISE--AND HER CREW, NEED A WELL-EARNED REST!
A-MEN, CAPTAIN!


GOLD KEY®
STAR TREK
90210-401
20c
STAR TREK
TRAPPED
IN SUPERSPACE,
THE ENTERPRISE
CREW IS RELENTLESSLY
HUNTED BY
A TERRIFYING WAR MACHINE!
© PARAMOUNT PICTURES CORPORATION


STAR TREK
PART 1
SIEGE in SUPERSPACE
WHAT STRANGE AND FANTASTIC TERRORS LIE BEYOND OUR OWN INFINITE UNIVERSE? CAPTAIN KIRK AND THE CREW OF THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE UNCOVER THE DARKEST SECRETS OF EXISTENCE WHEN THEY ARE TRAPPED IN THE VOID CALLED SUPERSPACE AND THEY ENCOUNTER THE MOST FEARED WAR MACHINE EVER CREATED!
PA-R-R-R-OOMM!
90210-401
STAR TREK #22-7311

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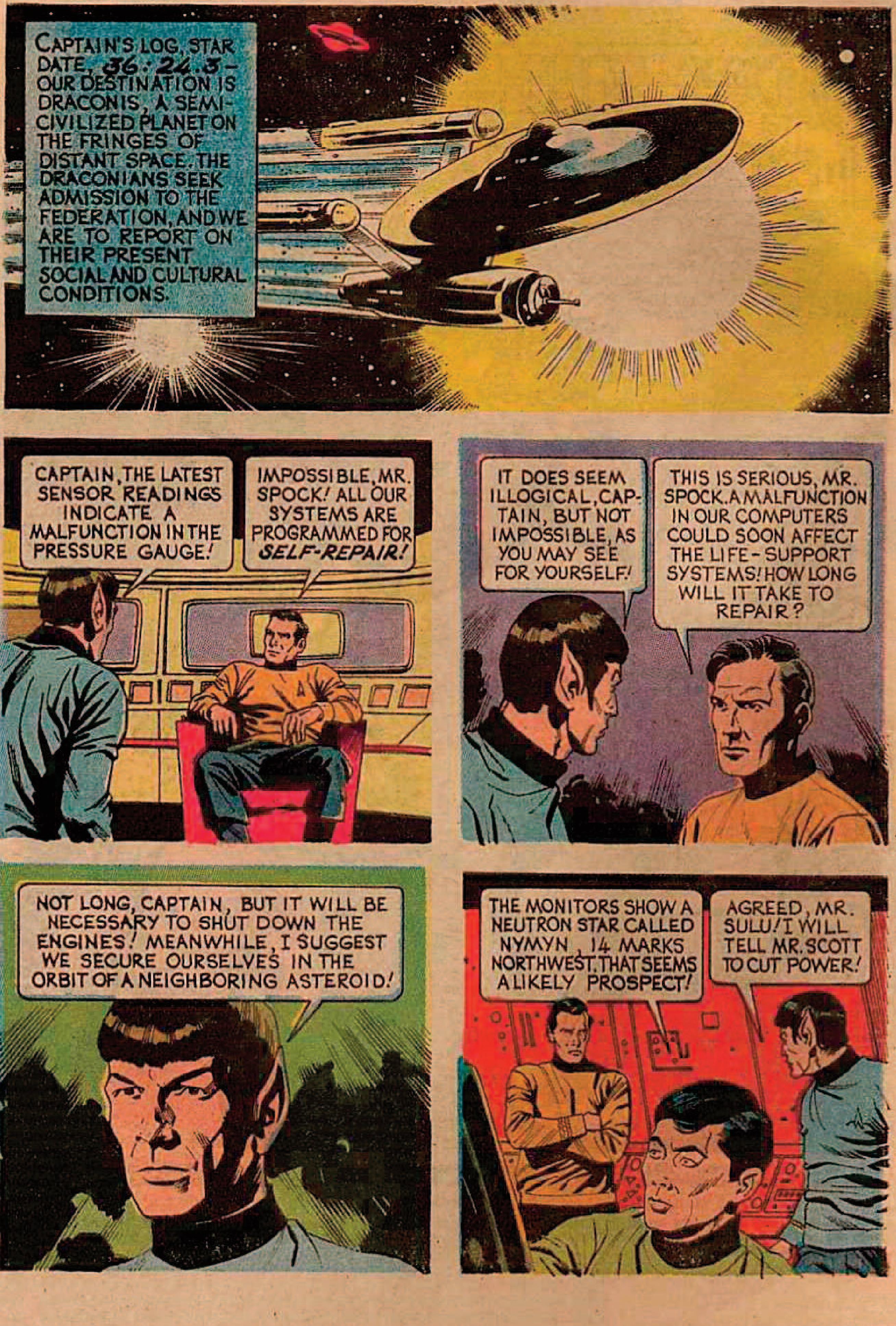
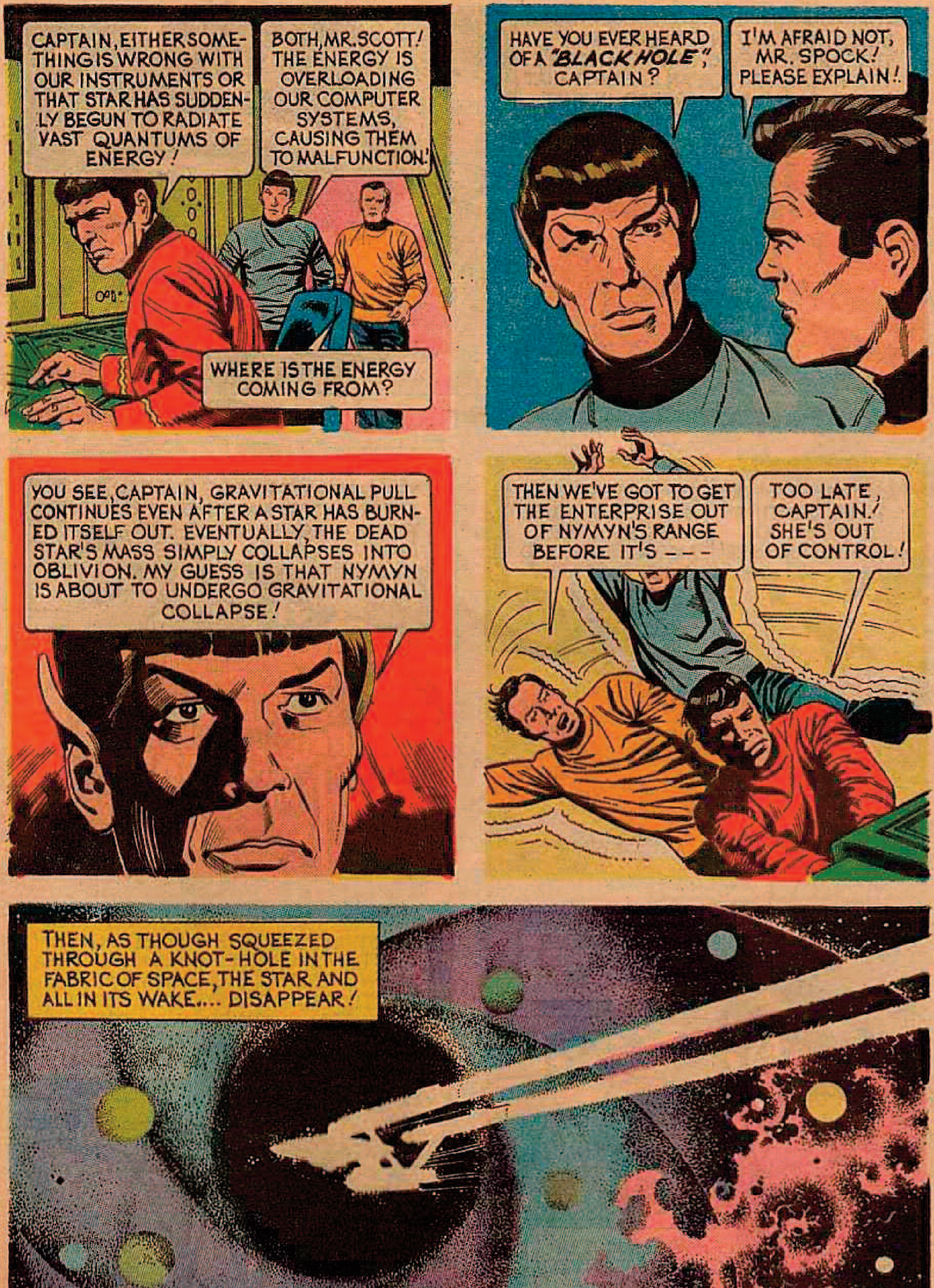
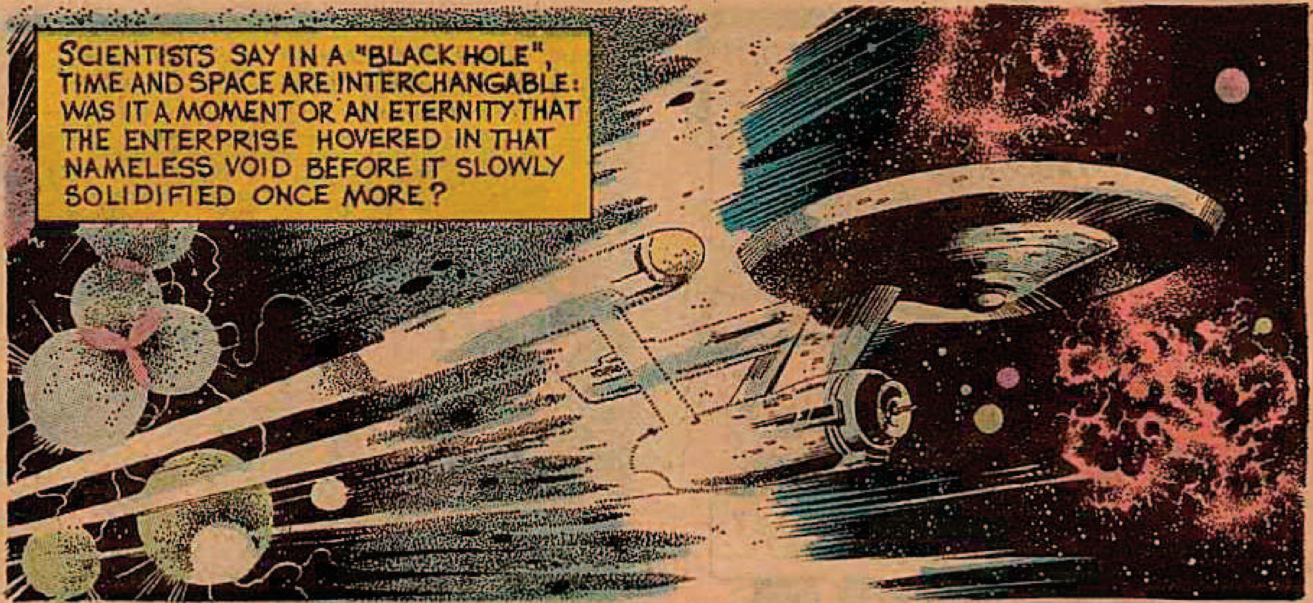
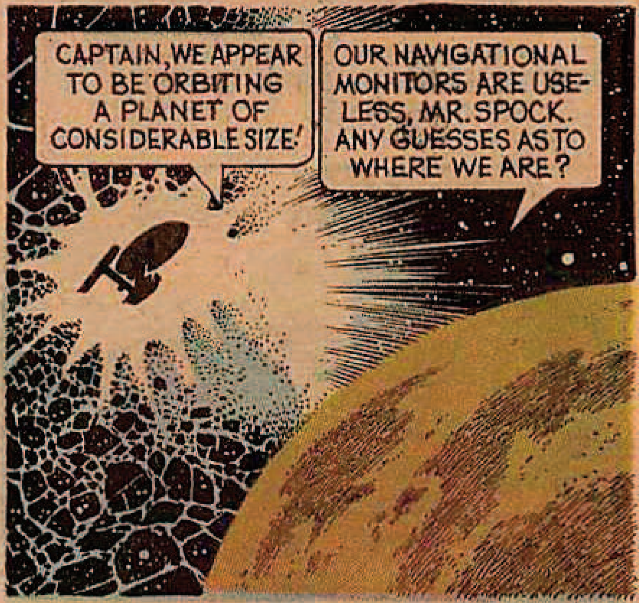
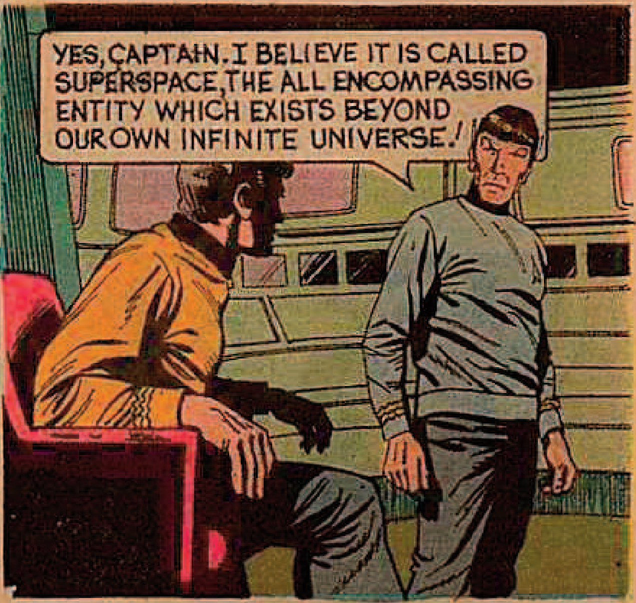
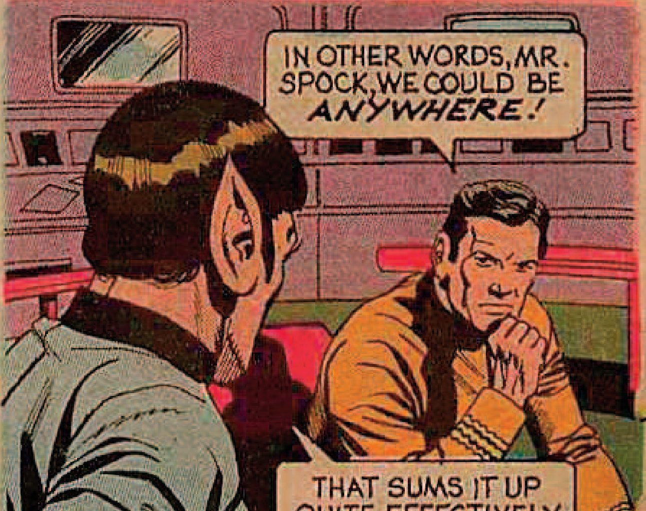

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE, 36.24.3— OUR DESTINATION IS DRACONIS, A SEMI-CIVILIZED PLANET ON THE FRINGES OF DISTANT SPACE. THE DRACONIANS SEEK ADMISSION TO THE FEDERATION, AND WE ARE TO REPORT ON THEIR PRESENT SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONDITIONS.
CAPTAIN, THE LATEST SENSOR READINGS INDICATE A MALFUNCTION IN THE PRESSURE GAUGE!
IMPOSSIBLE, MR. SPOCK! ALL OUR SYSTEMS ARE PROGRAMMED FOR *SELF-REPAIR!*
IT DOES SEEM ILLOGICAL, CAPTAIN, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, AS YOU MAY SEE FOR YOURSELF!
THIS IS SERIOUS, MR. SPOCK. A MALFUNCTION IN OUR COMPUTERS COULD SOON AFFECT THE LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS! HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO REPAIR?
NOT LONG, CAPTAIN, BUT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SHUT DOWN THE ENGINES! MEANWHILE, I SUGGEST WE SECURE OURSELVES IN THE ORBIT OF A NEIGHBORING ASTEROID!
THE MONITORS SHOW A NEUTRON STAR CALLED NYMYN, 14 MARKS NORTHWEST. THAT SEEMS A LIKELY PROSPECT!
AGREED, MR. SULU! I WILL TELL MR. SCOTT TO CUT POWER!

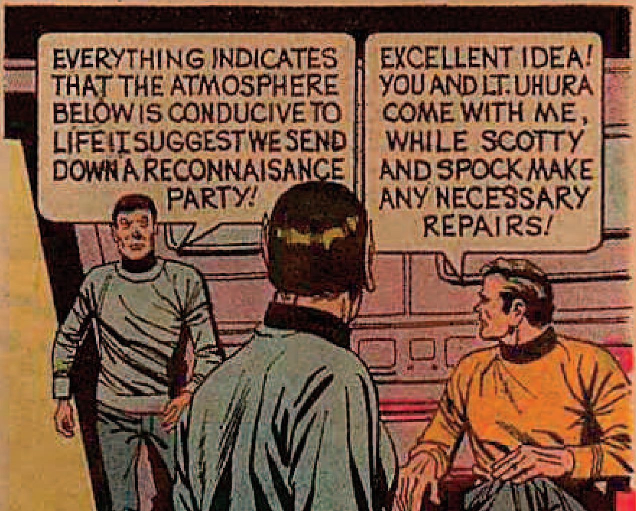

CAPTAIN, EITHER SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH OUR INSTRUMENTS OR THAT STAR HAS SUDDENLY BEGUN TO RADIATE VAST QUANTUMS OF ENERGY!
BOTH, MR. SCOTT! THE ENERGY IS OVERLOADING OUR COMPUTER SYSTEMS, CAUSING THEM TO MALFUNCTION!
WHERE IS THE ENERGY COMING FROM?
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A "BLACK HOLE", CAPTAIN?
I'M AFRAID NOT, MR. SPOCK! PLEASE EXPLAIN!
YOU SEE, CAPTAIN, GRAVITATIONAL PULL CONTINUES EVEN AFTER A STAR HAS BURNED ITSELF OUT. EVENTUALLY, THE DEAD STAR'S MASS SIMPLY COLLAPSES INTO OBLIVION. MY GUESS IS THAT NYMYN IS ABOUT TO UNDERGO GRAVITATIONAL COLLAPSE!
THEN WE'VE GOT TO GET THE ENTERPRISE OUT OF NYMYN'S RANGE BEFORE IT'S ---
TOO LATE, CAPTAIN! SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
THEN, AS THOUGH SQUEEZED THROUGH A KNOT-HOLE IN THE FABRIC OF SPACE, THE STAR AND ALL IN ITS WAKE.... DISAPPEAR!

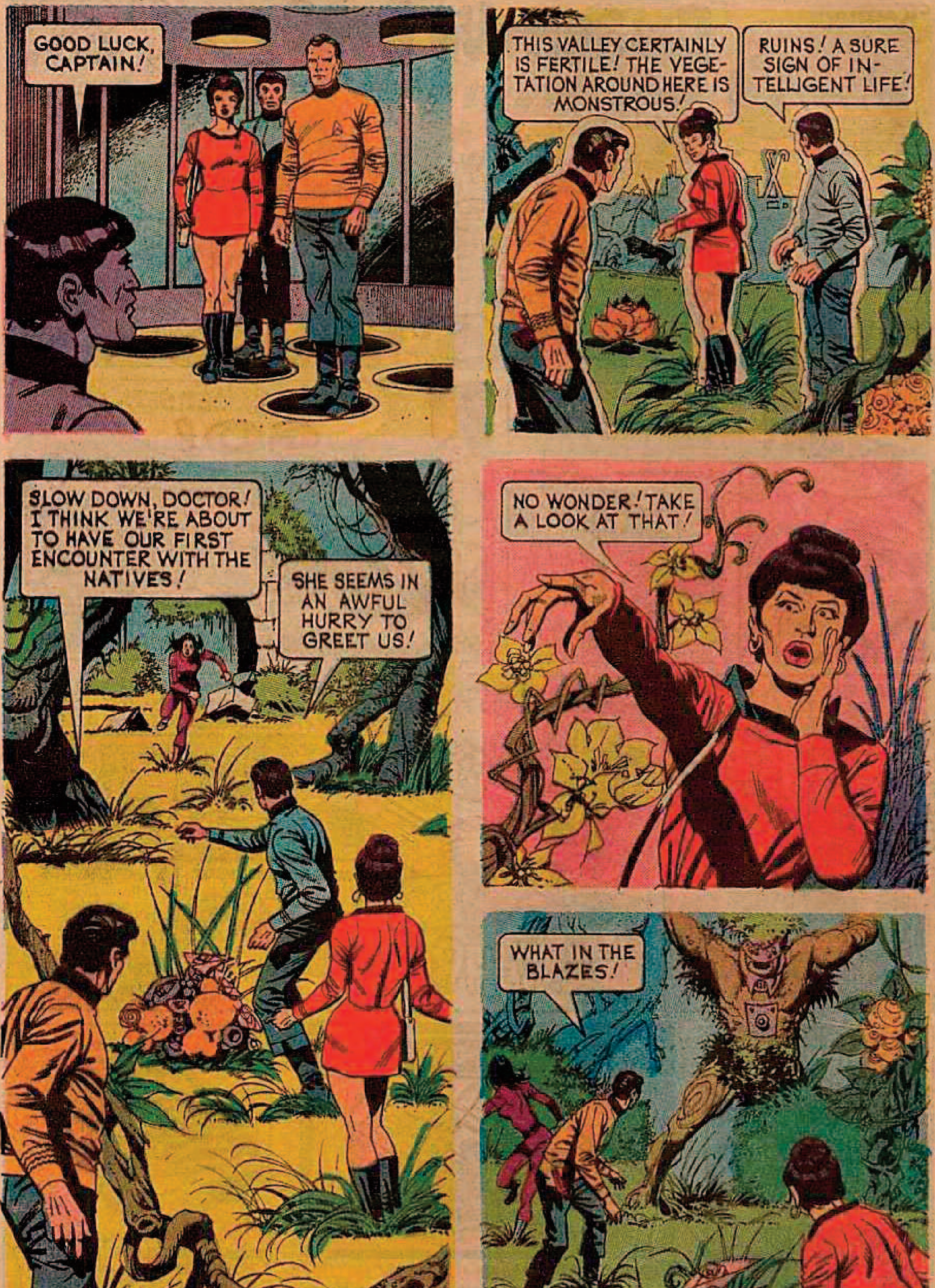

SCIENTISTS SAY IN A "BLACK HOLE", TIME AND SPACE ARE INTERCHANGABLE: WAS IT A MOMENT OR AN ETERNITY THAT THE ENTERPRISE HOVERED IN THAT NAMELESS VOID BEFORE IT SLOWLY SOLIDIFIED ONCE MORE?

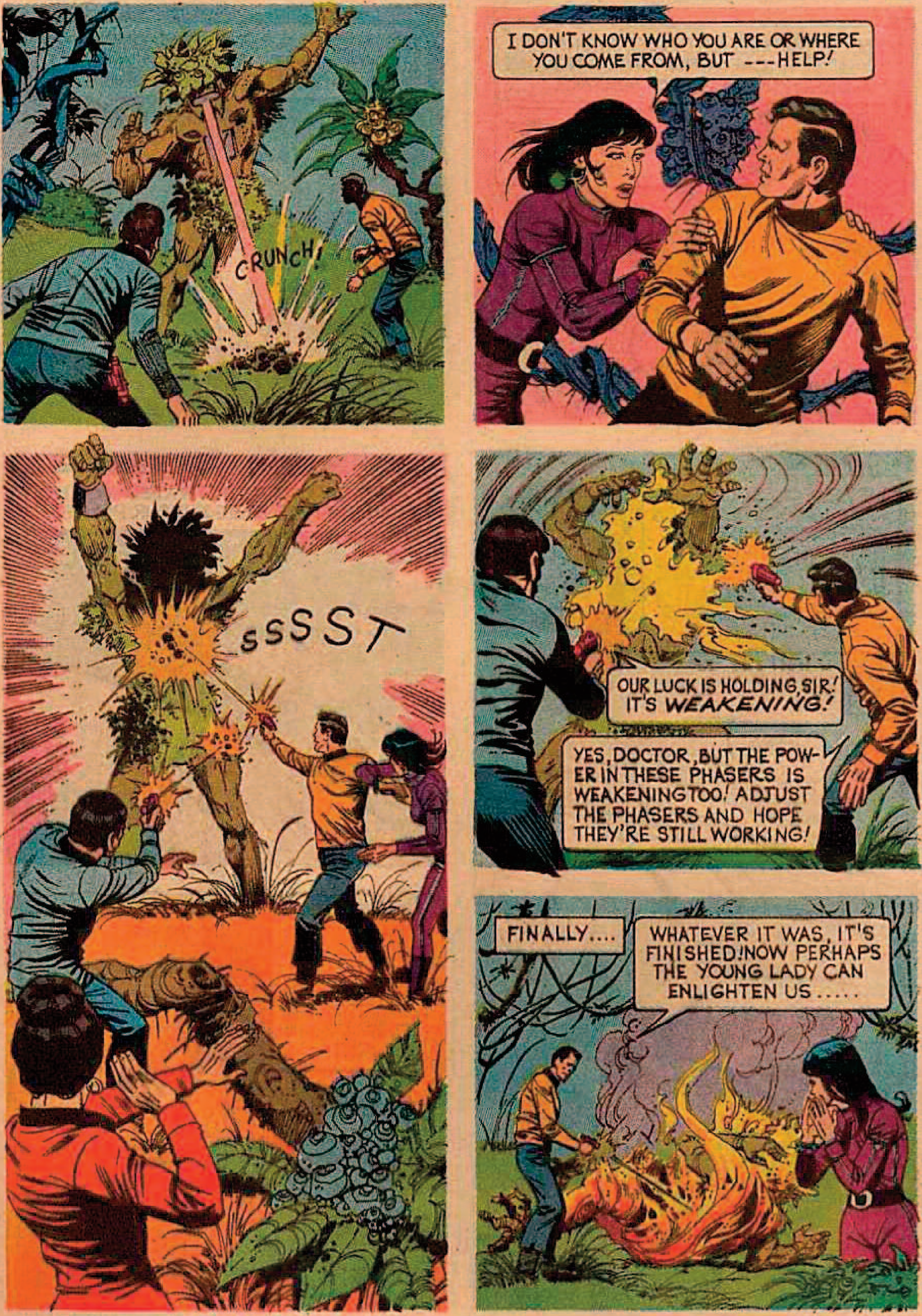

CAPTAIN, WE APPEAR TO BE ORBITING A PLANET OF CONSIDERABLE SIZE!
OUR NAVIGATIONAL MONITORS ARE USELESS, MR. SPOCK. ANY GUESSES AS TO WHERE WE ARE?

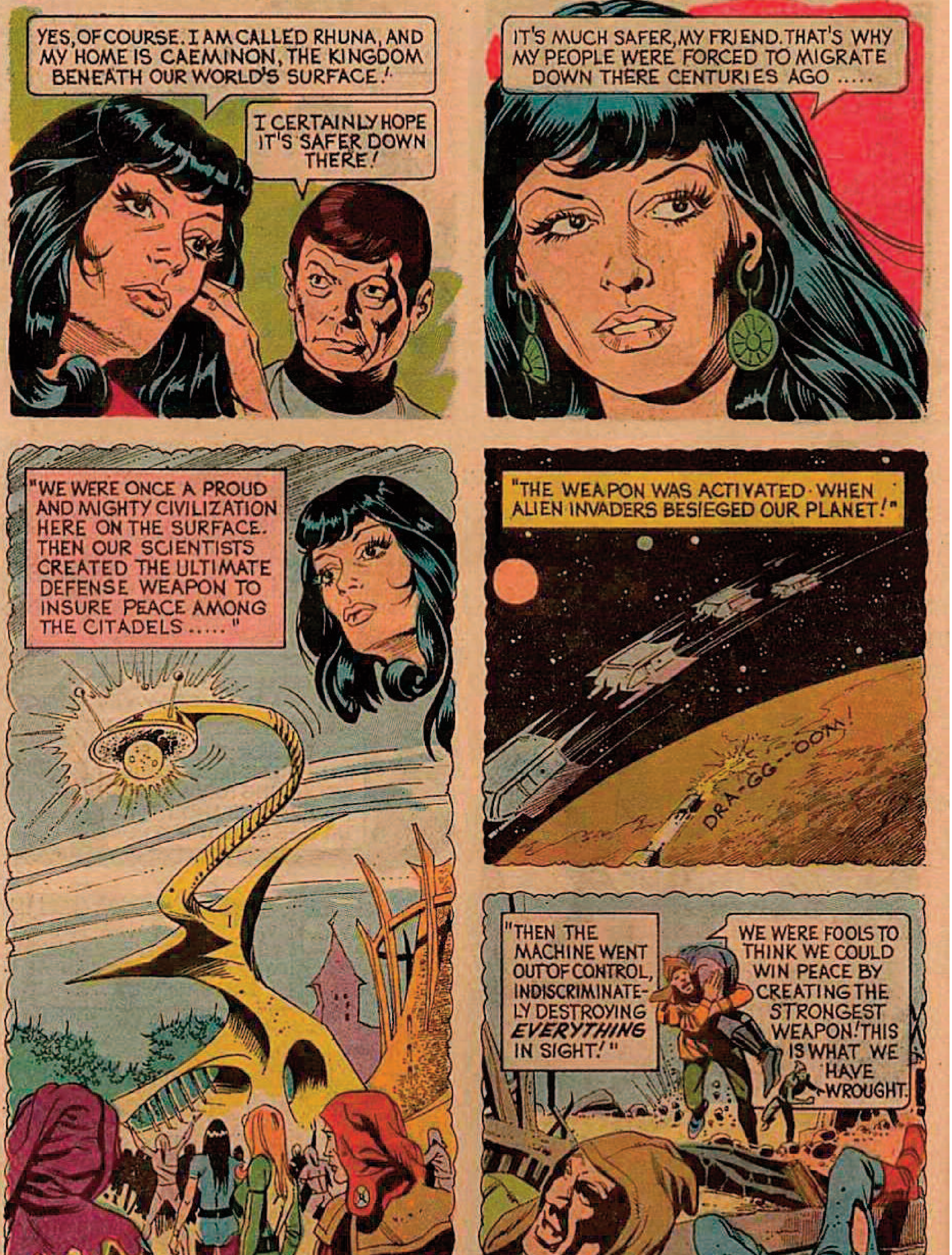

YES, CAPTAIN. I BELIEVE IT IS CALLED SUPERSPACE, THE ALL ENCOMPASSING ENTITY WHICH EXISTS BEYOND OUR OWN INFINITE UNIVERSE!

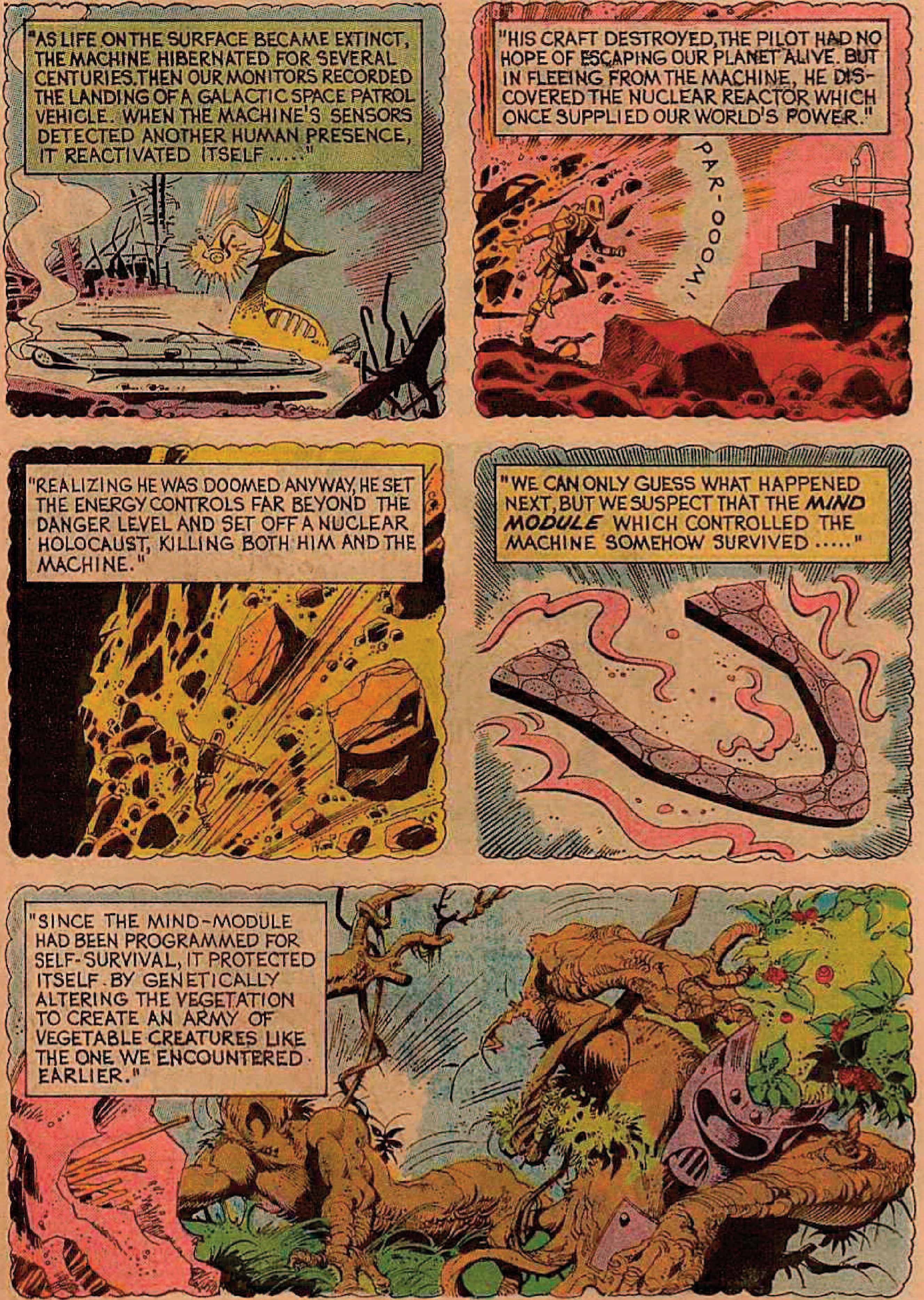

IN OTHER WORDS, MR. SPOCK, WE COULD BE *ANYWHERE!*
THAT SUMS IT UP QUITE EFFECTIVELY, CAPTAIN!

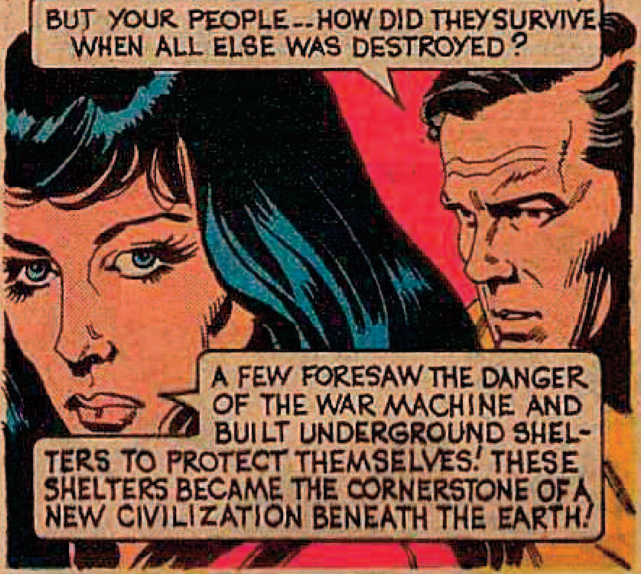

EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT THE ATMOSPHERE BELOW IS CONDUCIVE TO LIFE! I SUGGEST WE SEND DOWN A RECONNAISANCE PARTY!
EXCELLENT IDEA! YOU AND LT. UHURA COME WITH ME, WHILE SCOTTY AND SPOCK MAKE ANY NECESSARY REPAIRS!

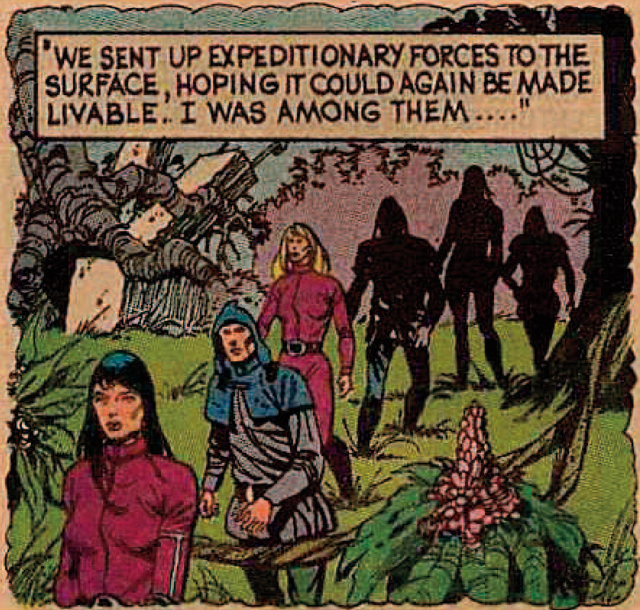

GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN!
THIS VALLEY CERTAINLY IS FERTILE! THE VEGETATION AROUND HERE IS MONSTROUS!
RUINS! A SURE SIGN OF INTELLIGENT LIFE!
SLOW DOWN, DOCTOR! I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE NATIVES!
SHE SEEMS IN AN AWFUL HURRY TO GREET US!
NO WONDER! TAKE A LOOK AT THAT!
WHAT IN THE BLAZES!

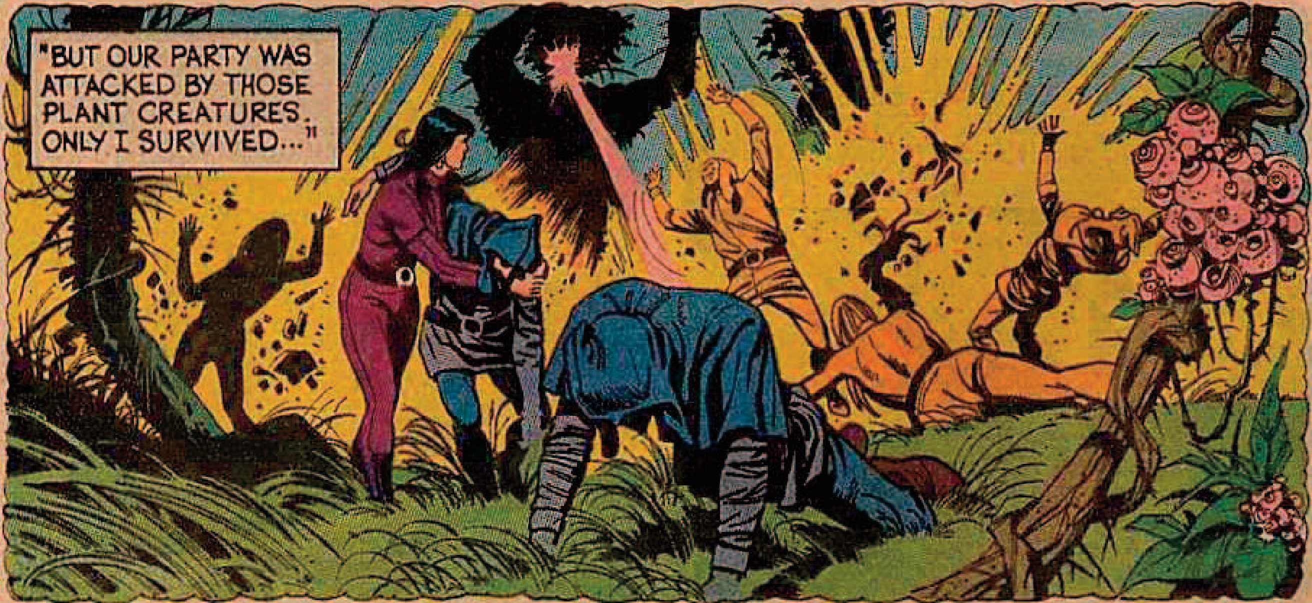

CRUNCH!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU COME FROM, BUT ---HELP!
SSSST
OUR LUCK IS HOLDING, SIR! IT'S *WEAKENING!*
YES, DOCTOR, BUT THE POWER IN THESE PHASERS IS WEAKENING TOO! ADJUST THE PHASERS AND HOPE THEY'RE STILL WORKING!
FINALLY....
WHATEVER IT WAS, IT'S FINISHED! NOW PERHAPS THE YOUNG LADY CAN ENLIGHTEN US .....

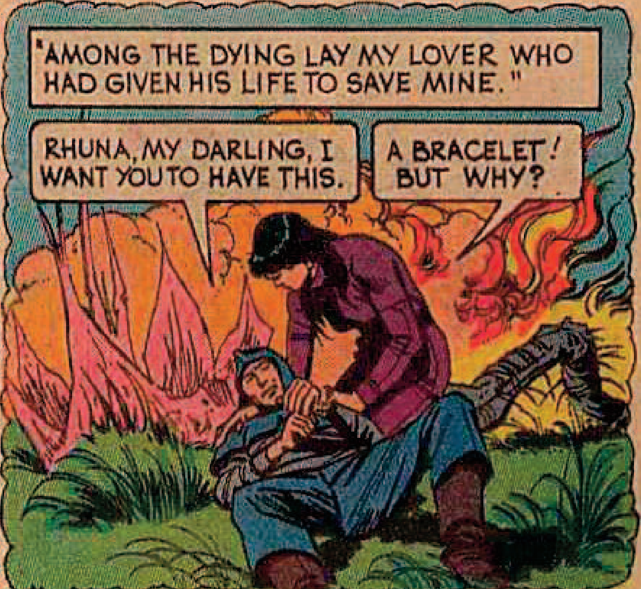

YES, OF COURSE. I AM CALLED RHUNA, AND MY HOME IS CAEMINON, THE KINGDOM BENEATH OUR WORLD'S SURFACE.!
I CERTAINLY HOPE IT'S SAFER DOWN THERE!
IT'S MUCH SAFER, MY FRIEND. THAT'S WHY MY PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO MIGRATE DOWN THERE CENTURIES AGO .....
"WE WERE ONCE A PROUD AND MIGHTY CIVILIZATION HERE ON THE SURFACE. THEN OUR SCIENTISTS CREATED THE ULTIMATE DEFENSE WEAPON TO INSURE PEACE AMONG THE CITADELS ....."
"THE WEAPON WAS ACTIVATED WHEN ALIEN INVADERS BESIEGED OUR PLANET!"
DRA-GG--OOM!
"THEN THE MACHINE WENT OUT OF CONTROL, INDISCRIMINATELY DESTROYING *EVERYTHING* IN SIGHT!"
WE WERE FOOLS TO THINK WE COULD WIN PEACE BY CREATING THE STRONGEST WEAPON! THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE WROUGHT.

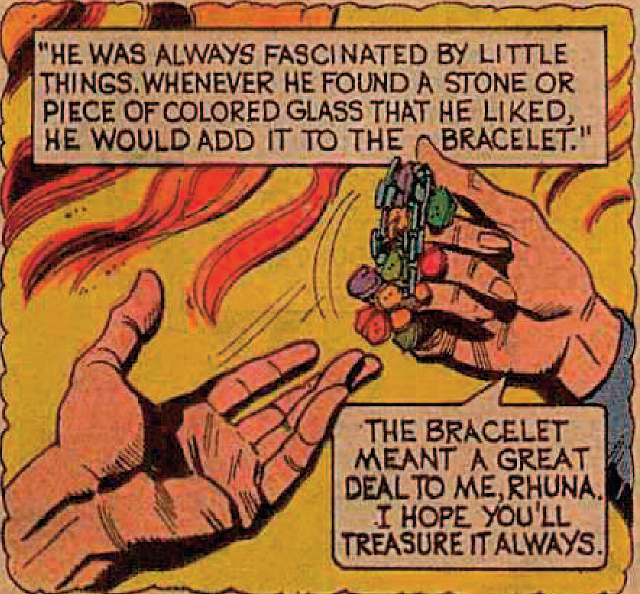

"AS LIFE ON THE SURFACE BECAME EXTINCT, THE MACHINE HIBERNATED FOR SEVERAL CENTURIES. THEN OUR MONITORS RECORDED THE LANDING OF A GALACTIC SPACE PATROL VEHICLE. WHEN THE MACHINE'S SENSORS DETECTED ANOTHER HUMAN PRESENCE, IT REACTIVATED ITSELF ...."
"HIS CRAFT DESTROYED, THE PILOT HAD NO HOPE OF ESCAPING OUR PLANET ALIVE. BUT IN FLEEING FROM THE MACHINE, HE DISCOVERED THE NUCLEAR REACTOR WHICH ONCE SUPPLIED OUR WORLD'S POWER."
PAR-OOOM!
"REALIZING HE WAS DOOMED ANYWAY, HE SET THE ENERGY CONTROLS FAR BEYOND THE DANGER LEVEL AND SET OFF A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST, KILLING BOTH HIM AND THE MACHINE."
"WE CAN ONLY GUESS WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT THE *MIND MODULE* WHICH CONTROLLED THE MACHINE SOMEHOW SURVIVED ....."
"SINCE THE MIND-MODULE HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR SELF-SURVIVAL, IT PROTECTED ITSELF. BY GENETICALLY ALTERING THE VEGETATION TO CREATE AN ARMY OF VEGETABLE CREATURES LIKE THE ONE WE ENCOUNTERED EARLIER."

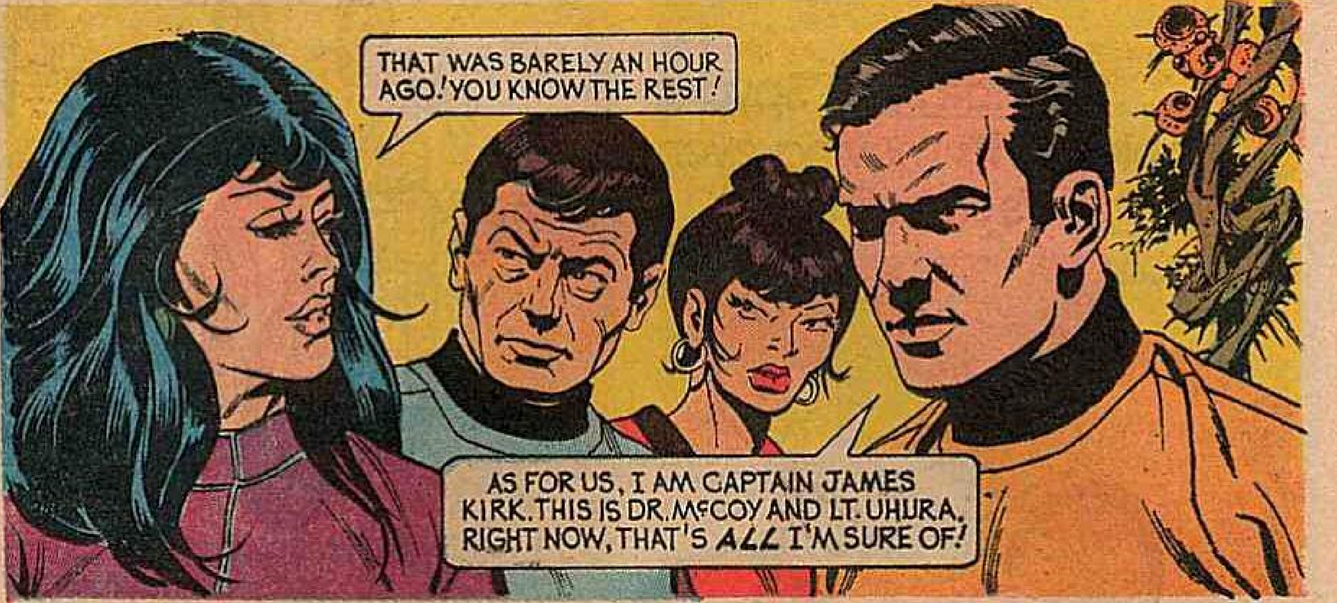

BUT YOUR PEOPLE--HOW DID THEY SURVIVE WHEN ALL ELSE WAS DESTROYED?
A FEW FORESAW THE DANGER OF THE WAR MACHINE AND BUILT UNDERGROUND SHELTERS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES! THESE SHELTERS BECAME THE CORNERSTONE OF A NEW CIVILIZATION BENEATH THE EARTH!

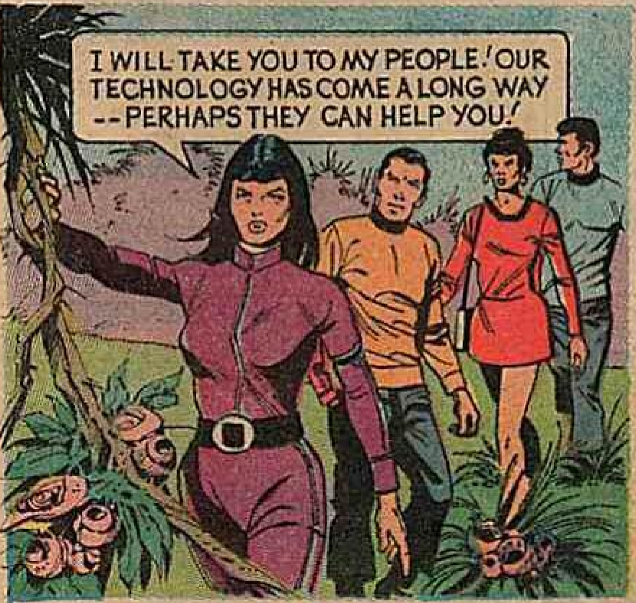

"WE SENT UP EXPEDITIONARY FORCES TO THE SURFACE, HOPING IT COULD AGAIN BE MADE LIVABLE. I WAS AMONG THEM...."

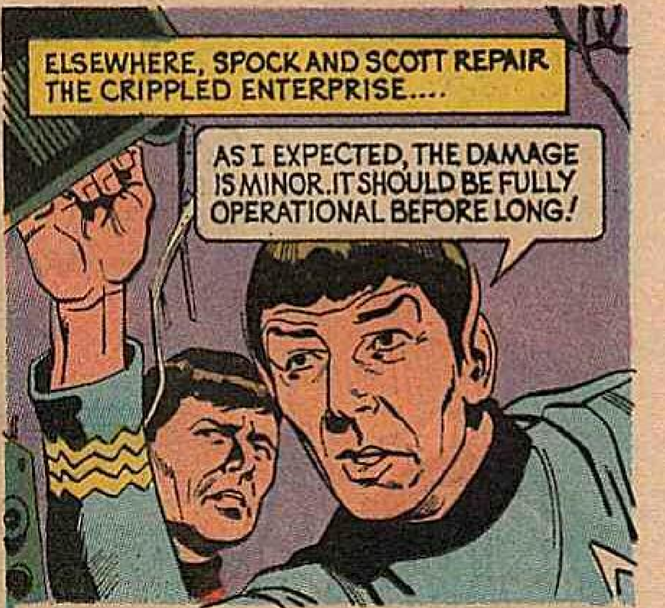

"BUT OUR PARTY WAS ATTACKED BY THOSE PLANT CREATURES. ONLY I SURVIVED..."

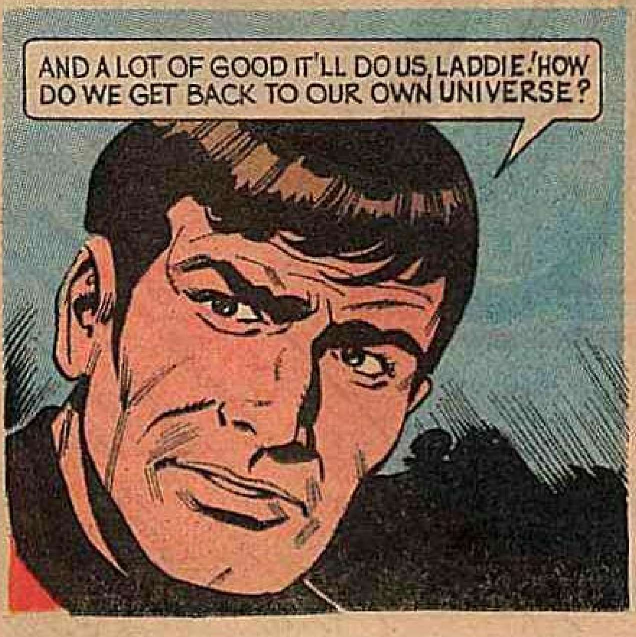

"AMONG THE DYING LAY MY LOVER WHO HAD GIVEN HIS LIFE TO SAVE MINE."
RHUNA, MY DARLING, I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS.
A BRACELET! BUT WHY?

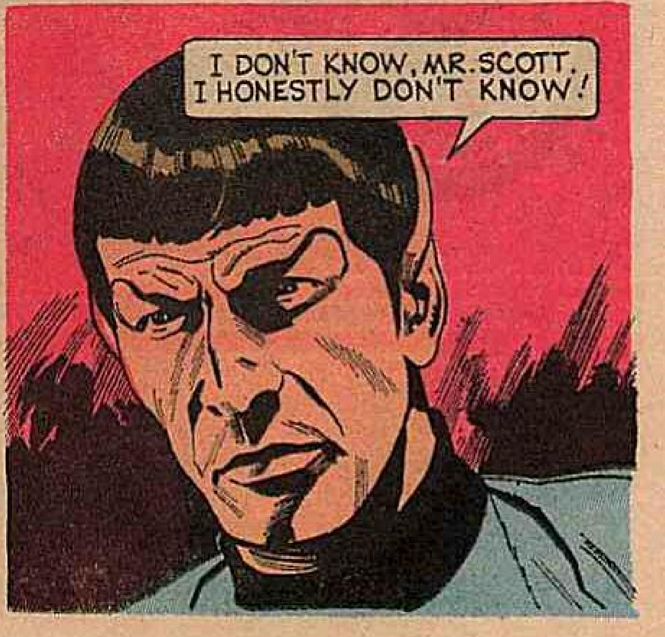

"HE WAS ALWAYS FASCINATED BY LITTLE THINGS. WHENEVER HE FOUND A STONE OR PIECE OF COLORED GLASS THAT HE LIKED, HE WOULD ADD IT TO THE BRACELET."
THE BRACELET MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO ME, RHUNA. I HOPE YOU'LL TREASURE IT ALWAYS.

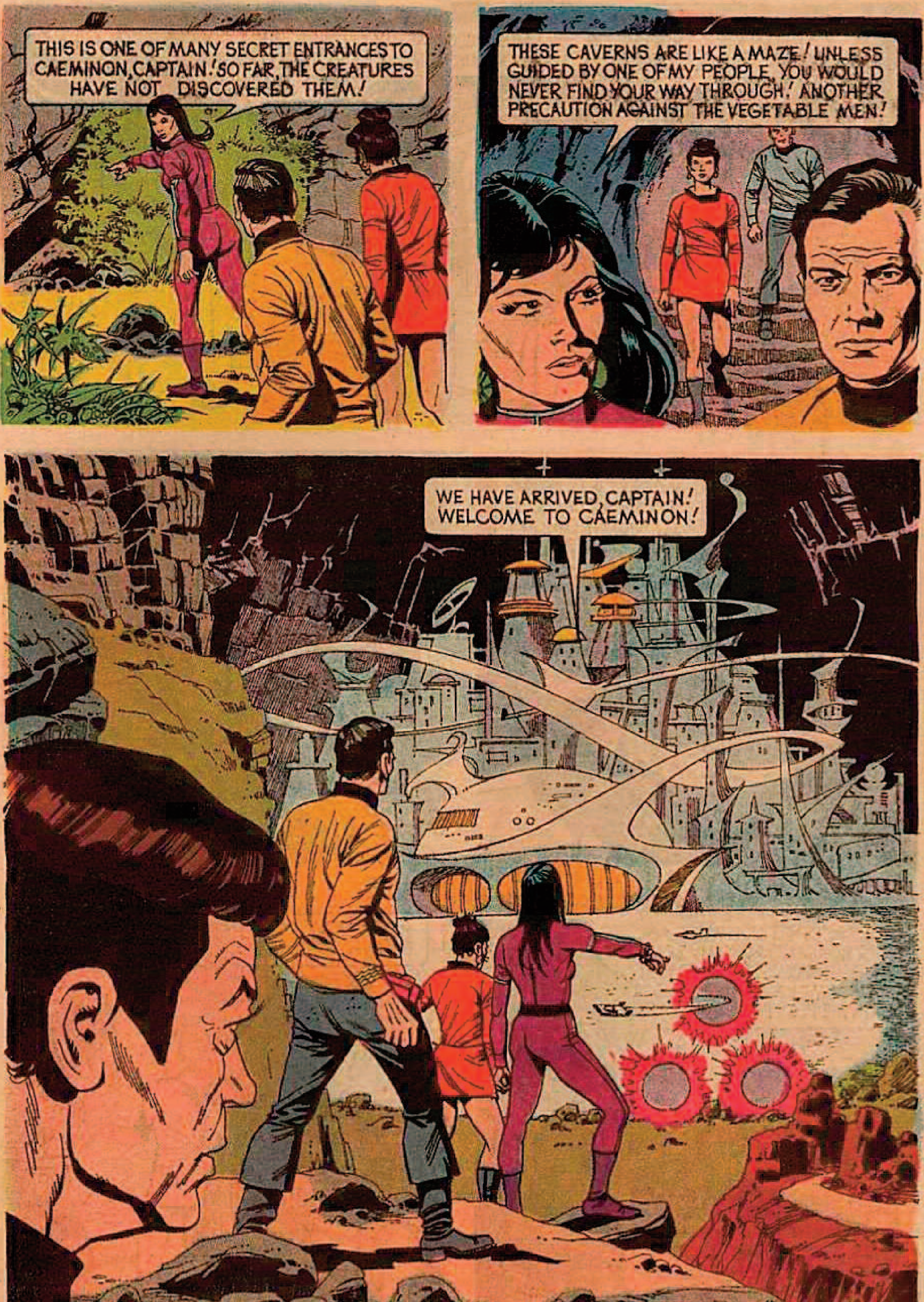

THAT WAS BARELY AN HOUR AGO! YOU KNOW THE REST!
AS FOR US, I AM CAPTAIN JAMES KIRK. THIS IS DR. McCOY AND LT. UHURA. RIGHT NOW, THAT'S ALL I'M SURE OF!

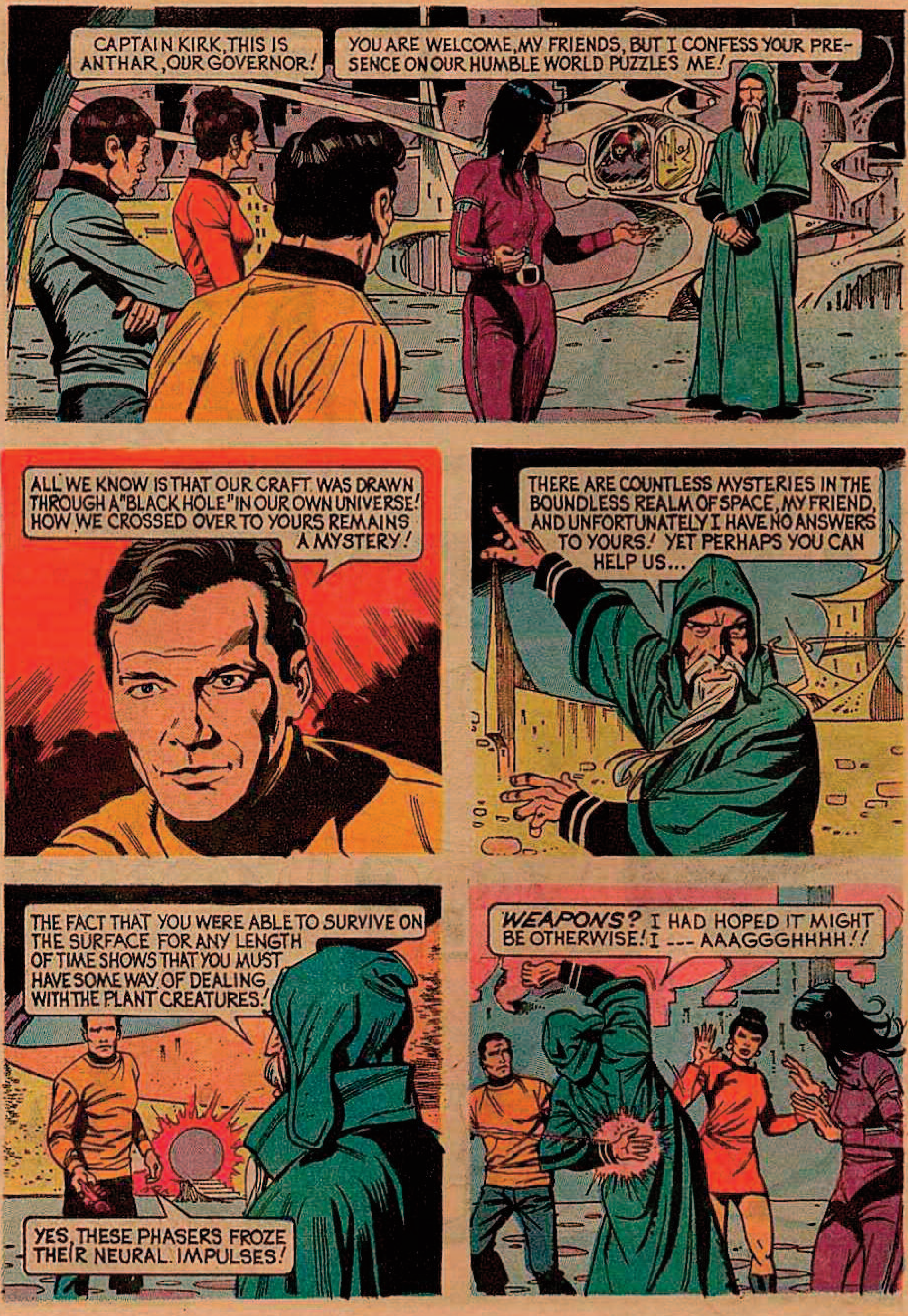

I WILL TAKE YOU TO MY PEOPLE! OUR TECHNOLOGY HAS COME A LONG WAY -- PERHAPS THEY CAN HELP YOU!

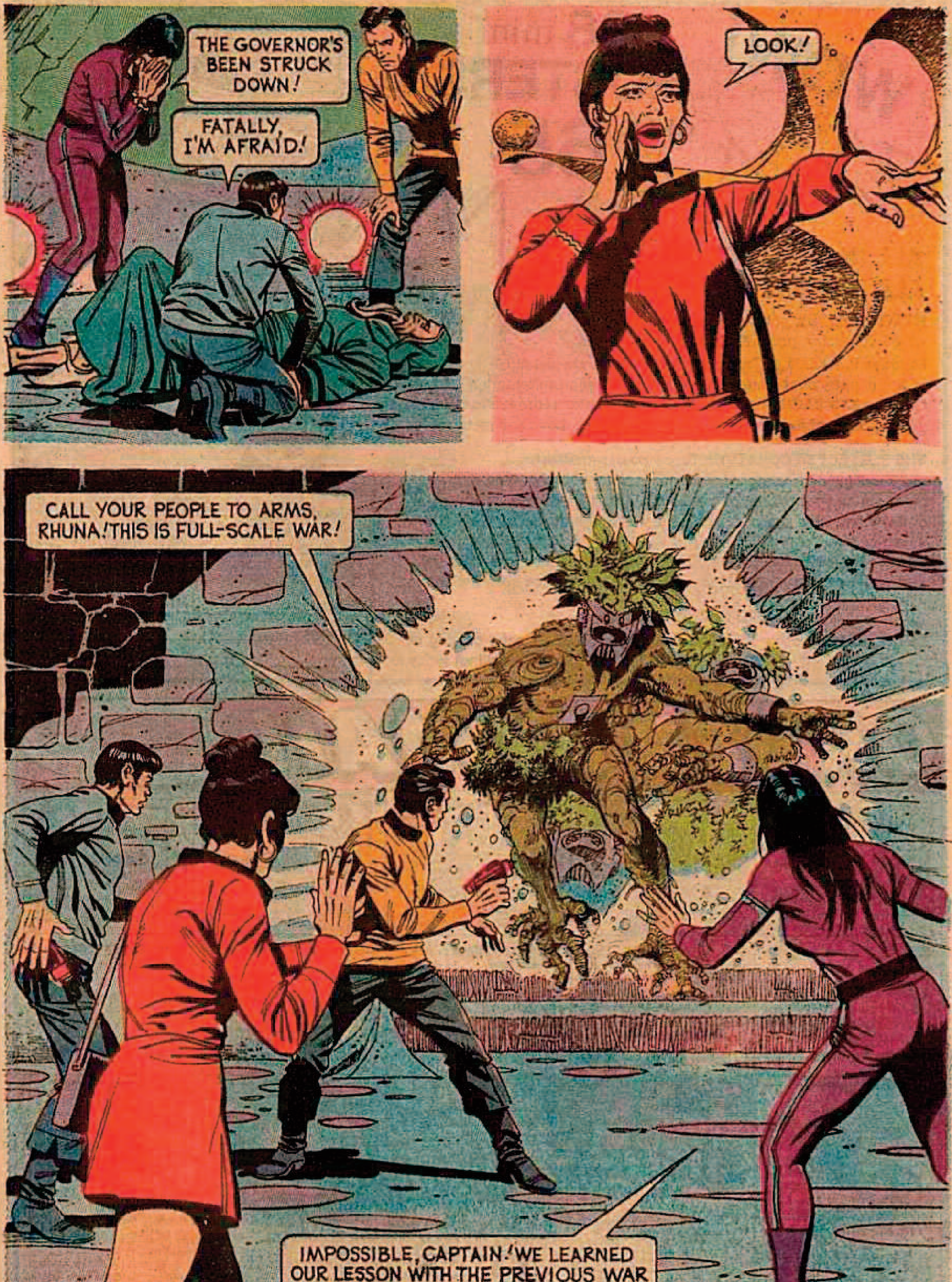

ELSEWHERE, SPOCK AND SCOTT REPAIR THE CRIPPLED ENTERPRISE....
AS I EXPECTED, THE DAMAGE IS MINOR. IT SHOULD BE FULLY OPERATIONAL BEFORE LONG!


AND A LOT OF GOOD IT'LL DO US, LADDIE! HOW DO WE GET BACK TO OUR OWN UNIVERSE?

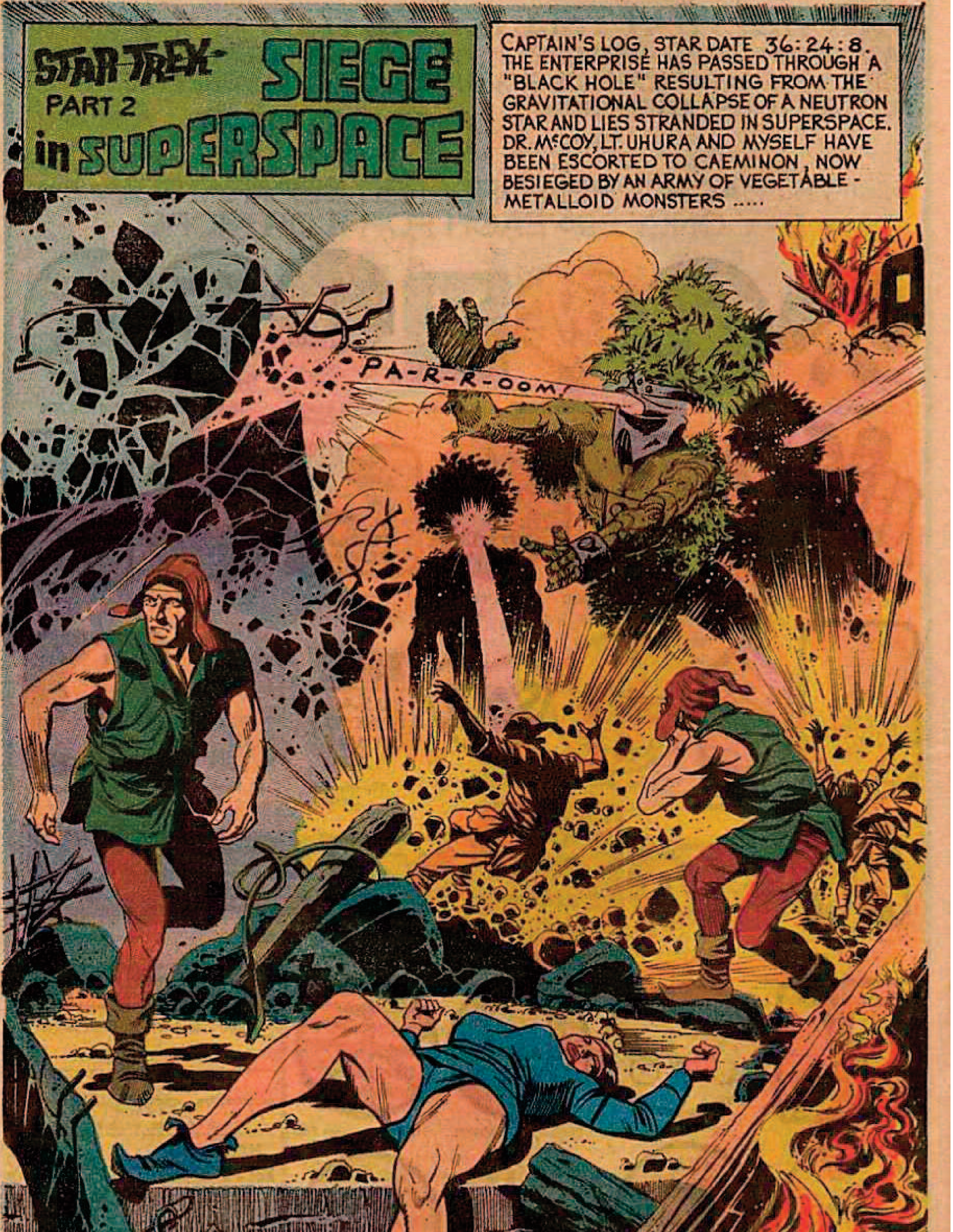

I DON'T KNOW, MR. SCOTT. I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW!


THIS IS ONE OF MANY SECRET ENTRANCES TO CAEMINON, CAPTAIN! SO FAR, THE CREATURES HAVE NOT DISCOVERED THEM!
THESE CAVERNS ARE LIKE A MAZE! UNLESS GUIDED BY ONE OF MY PEOPLE, YOU WOULD NEVER FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH! ANOTHER PRECAUTION AGAINST THE VEGETABLE MEN!
WE HAVE ARRIVED, CAPTAIN! WELCOME TO CAEMINON!

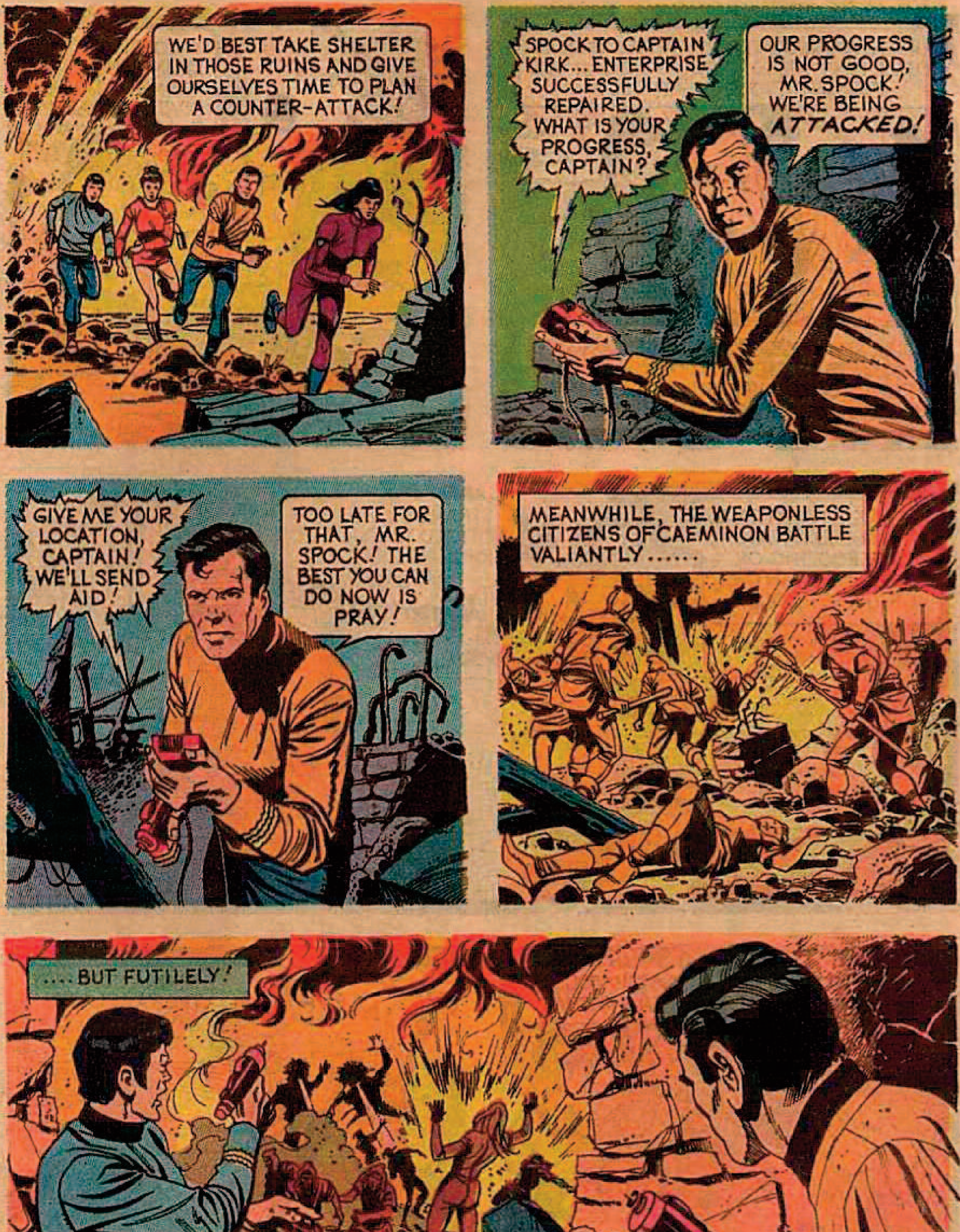

CAPTAIN KIRK, THIS IS ANTHAR, OUR GOVERNOR!
YOU ARE WELCOME, MY FRIENDS, BUT I CONFESS YOUR PRESENCE ON OUR HUMBLE WORLD PUZZLES ME!
ALL WE KNOW IS THAT OUR CRAFT WAS DRAWN THROUGH A "BLACK HOLE" IN OUR OWN UNIVERSE! HOW WE CROSSED OVER TO YOURS REMAINS A MYSTERY!
THERE ARE COUNTLESS MYSTERIES IN THE BOUNDLESS REALM OF SPACE, MY FRIEND, AND UNFORTUNATELY I HAVE NO ANSWERS TO YOURS! YET PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP US...
THE FACT THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE ON THE SURFACE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME SHOWS THAT YOU MUST HAVE SOME WAY OF DEALING WITH THE PLANT CREATURES!
YES, THESE PHASERS FROZE THEIR NEURAL IMPULSES!
WEAPONS? I HAD HOPED IT MIGHT BE OTHERWISE! I --- AAAGGGHHHH!!

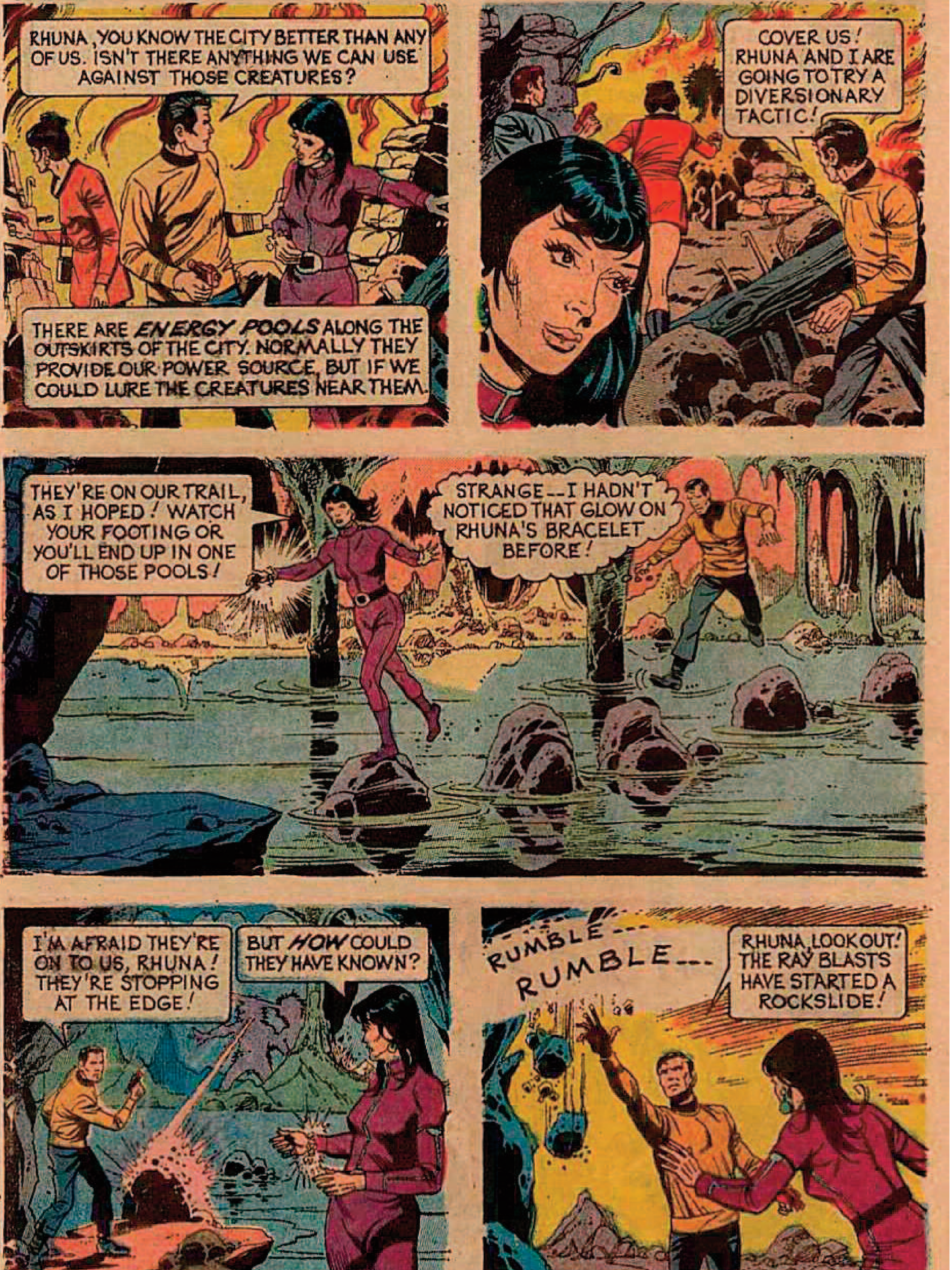

THE GOVERNOR'S BEEN STRUCK DOWN!
FATALLY, I'M AFRAID!
LOOK!
CALL YOUR PEOPLE TO ARMS, RHUNA! THIS IS FULL-SCALE WAR!
IMPOSSIBLE, CAPTAIN! WE LEARNED OUR LESSON WITH THE PREVIOUS WAR MACHINE! ALL *WEAPONS* IN CAEMINON HAVE BEEN *BANNED*!

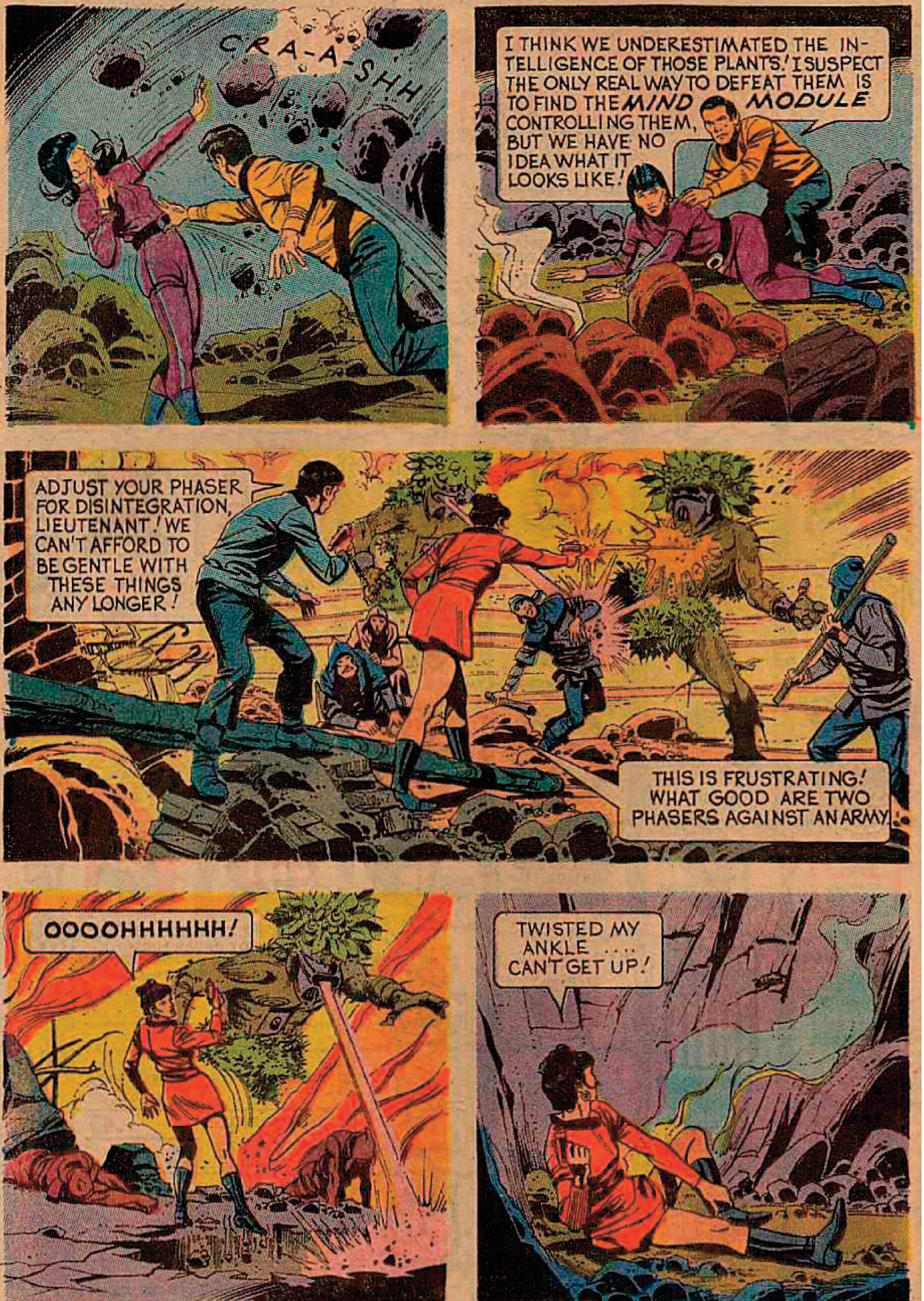
STAR TREK
PART 2
SIEGE in SUPERSPACE

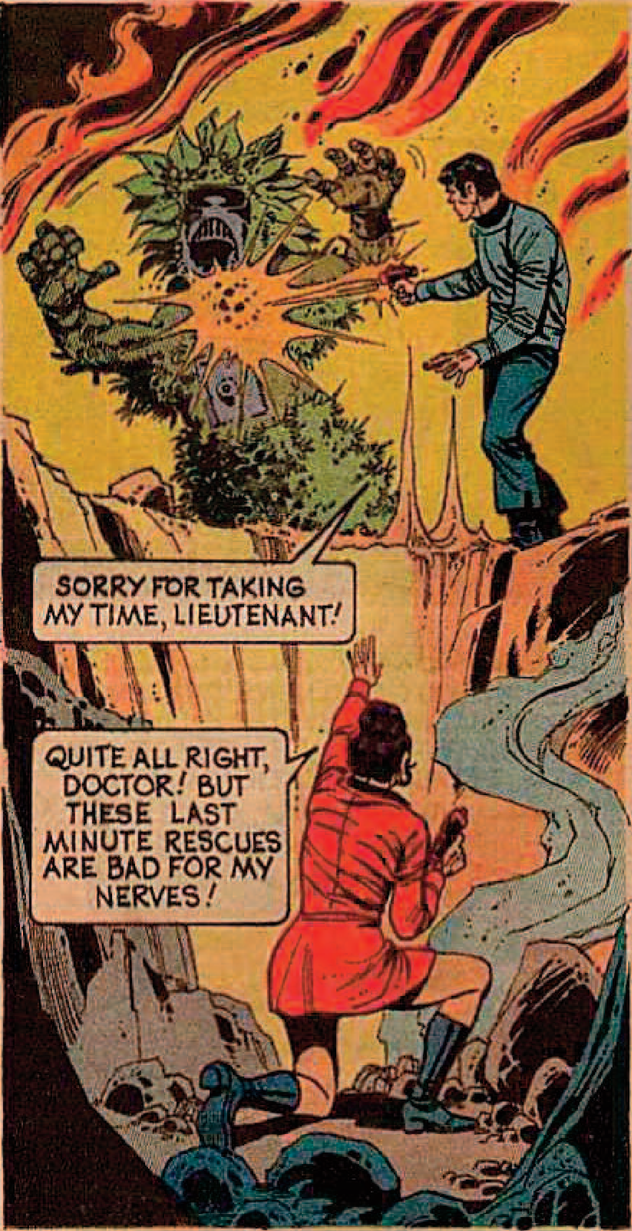


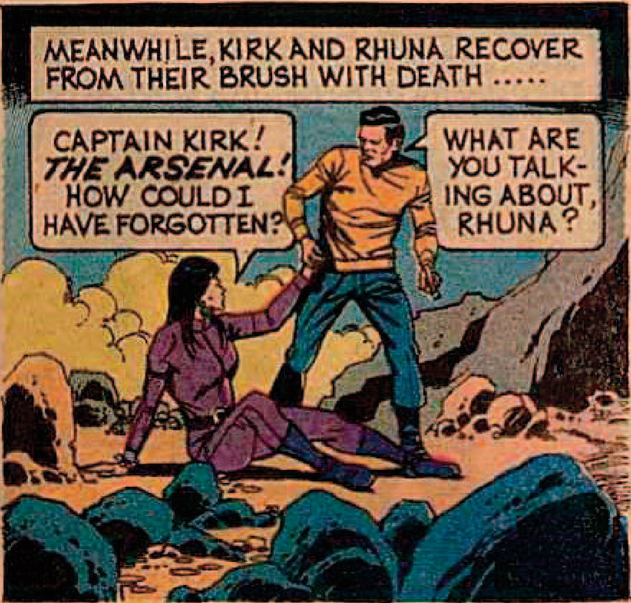
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 36:24:8. THE ENTERPRISE HAS PASSED THROUGH A "BLACK HOLE" RESULTING FROM THE GRAVITATIONAL COLLAPSE OF A NEUTRON STAR AND LIES STRANDED IN SUPERSPACE. DR. McCOY, LT. UHURA AND MYSELF HAVE BEEN ESCORTED TO CAEMINON, NOW BESIEGED BY AN ARMY OF VEGETABLE-METALLOID MONSTERS .....

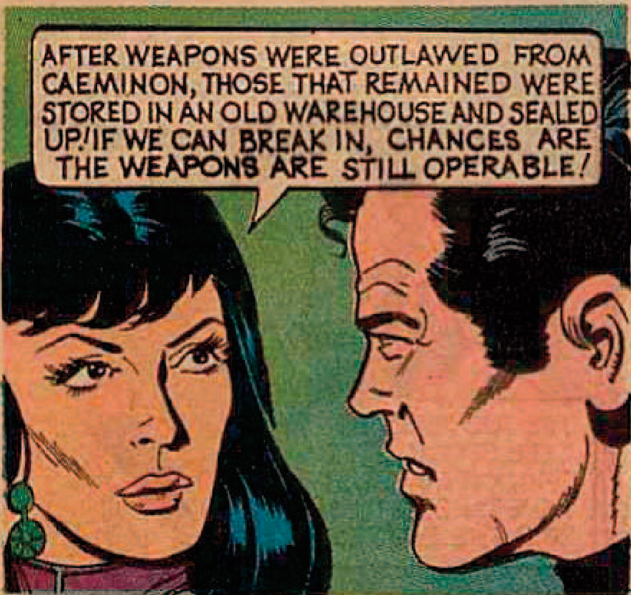

WE'D BEST TAKE SHELTER IN THOSE RUINS AND GIVE OURSELVES TIME TO PLAN A COUNTER-ATTACK!
SPOCK TO CAPTAIN KIRK... ENTERPRISE SUCCESSFULLY REPAIRED. WHAT IS YOUR PROGRESS, CAPTAIN?
OUR PROGRESS IS NOT GOOD, MR. SPOCK! WE'RE BEING *ATTACKED!*
GIVE ME YOUR LOCATION, CAPTAIN! WE'LL SEND AID!
TOO LATE FOR THAT, MR. SPOCK! THE BEST YOU CAN DO NOW IS PRAY!
MEANWHILE, THE WEAPONLESS CITIZENS OF CAEMINON BATTLE VALIANTLY......
....BUT FUTILELY!
CAPTAIN, THE CITIZENS ARE BEING SLAUGHTERED! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

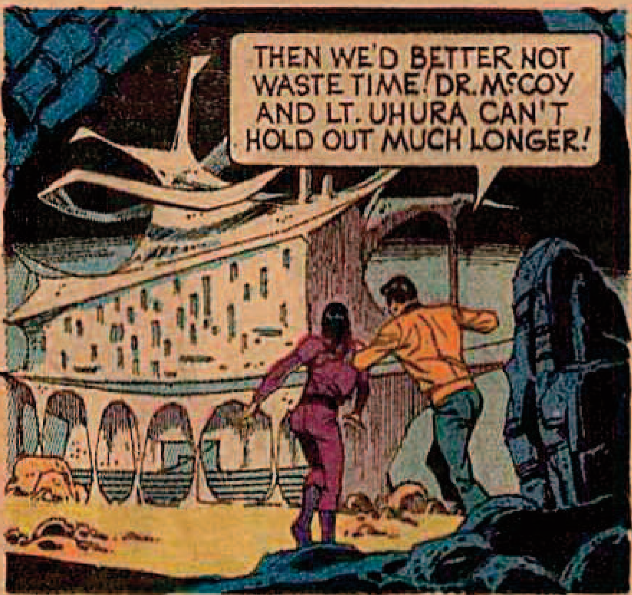

RHUNA, YOU KNOW THE CITY BETTER THAN ANY OF US. ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN USE AGAINST THOSE CREATURES?
THERE ARE *ENERGY POOLS* ALONG THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY. NORMALLY THEY PROVIDE OUR POWER SOURCE, BUT IF WE COULD LURE THE CREATURES NEAR THEM.
COVER US! RHUNA AND I ARE GOING TO TRY A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC!
THEY'RE ON OUR TRAIL, AS I HOPED! WATCH YOUR FOOTING OR YOU'LL END UP IN ONE OF THOSE POOLS!
STRANGE--I HADN'T NOTICED THAT GLOW ON RHUNA'S BRACELET BEFORE!
I'M AFRAID THEY'RE ON TO US, RHUNA! THEY'RE STOPPING AT THE EDGE!
BUT *HOW* COULD THEY HAVE KNOWN?
RUMBLE---
RUMBLE---
RHUNA, LOOK OUT! THE RAY BLASTS HAVE STARTED A ROCKSLIDE!

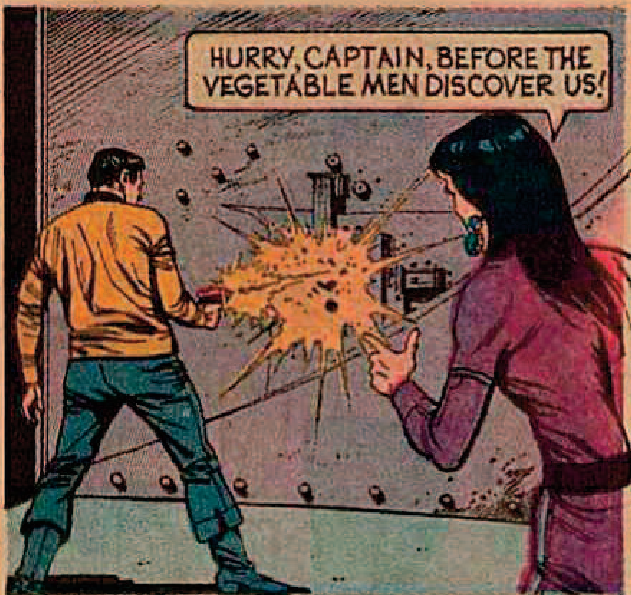

CRA-A-SHH
I THINK WE UNDERESTIMATED THE INTELLIGENCE OF THOSE PLANTS! I SUSPECT THE ONLY REAL WAY TO DEFEAT THEM IS TO FIND THE MIND MODULE CONTROLLING THEM, BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
ADJUST YOUR PHASER FOR DISINTEGRATION, LIEUTENANT! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE GENTLE WITH THESE THINGS ANY LONGER!
THIS IS FRUSTRATING! WHAT GOOD ARE TWO PHASERS AGAINST AN ARMY!
OOOOHHHHHH!
TWISTED MY ANKLE .... CAN'T GET UP!

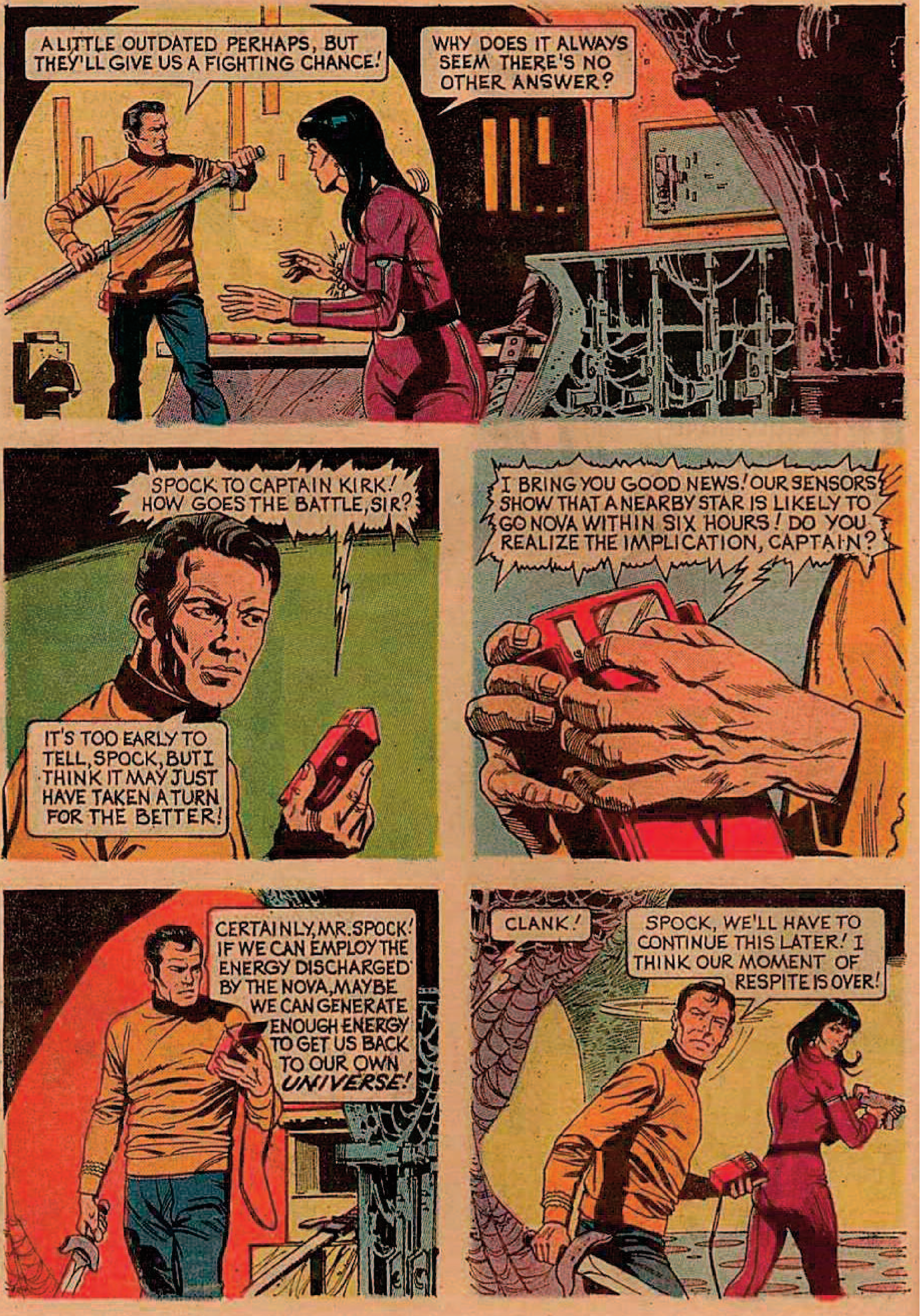

SORRY FOR TAKING MY TIME, LIEUTENANT!
QUITE ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR! BUT THESE LAST MINUTE RESCUES ARE BAD FOR MY NERVES!

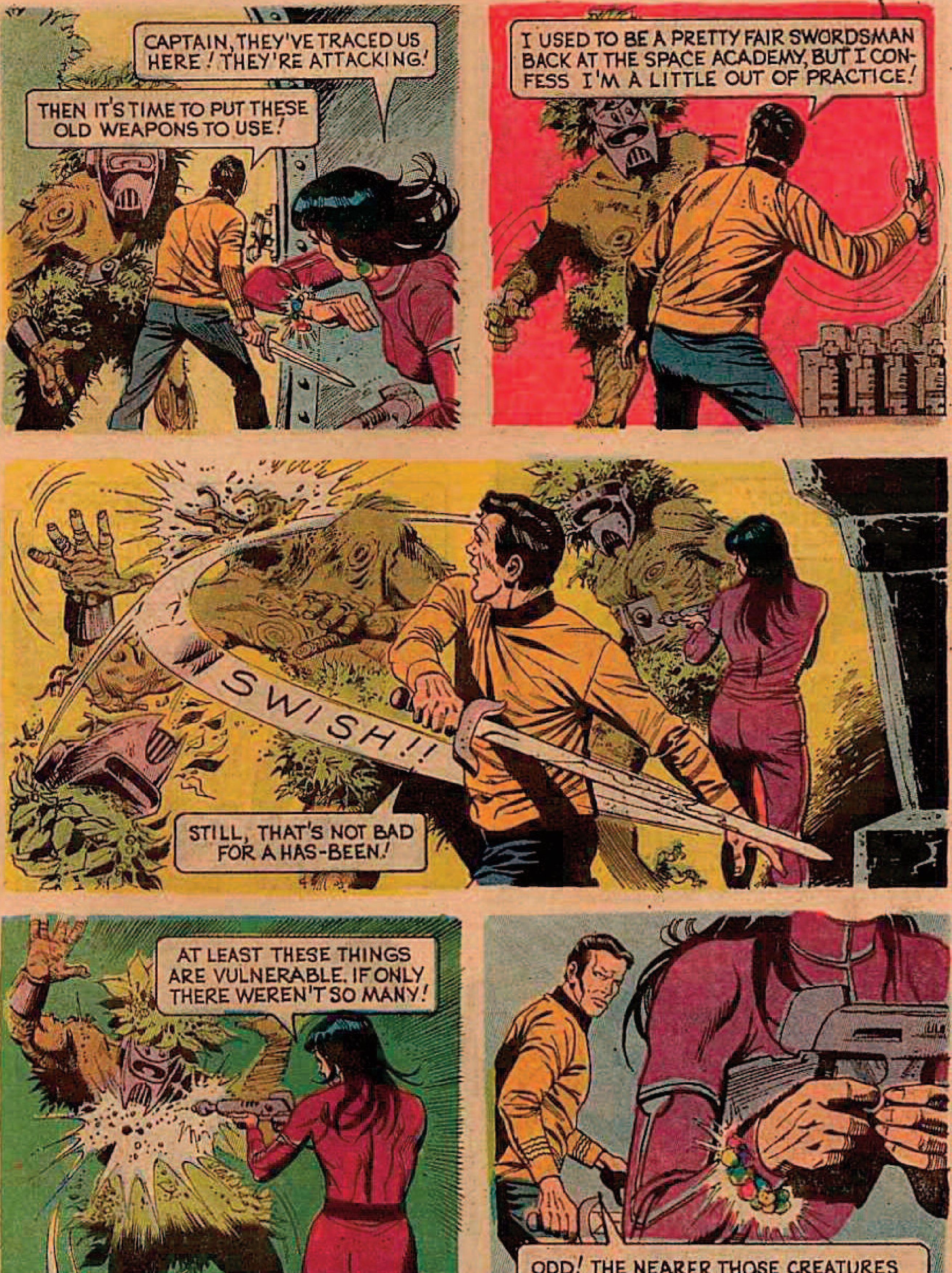

MEANWHILE, KIRK AND RHUNA RECOVER FROM THEIR BRUSH WITH DEATH .....
CAPTAIN KIRK! *THE ARSENAL!* HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, RHUNA?

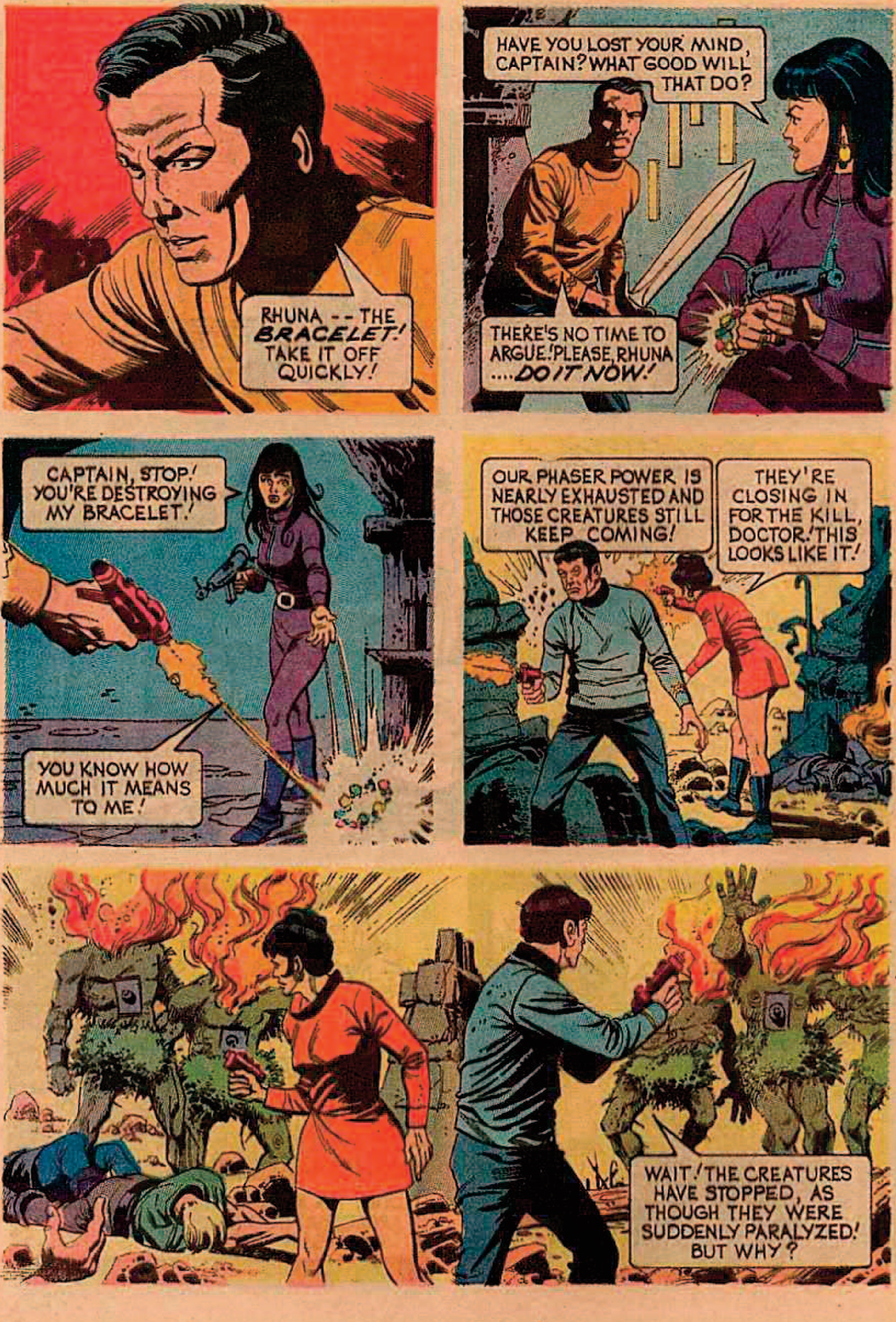

AFTER WEAPONS WERE OUTLAWED FROM CAEMINON, THOSE THAT REMAINED WERE STORED IN AN OLD WAREHOUSE AND SEALED UP! IF WE CAN BREAK IN, CHANCES ARE THE WEAPONS ARE STILL OPERABLE!

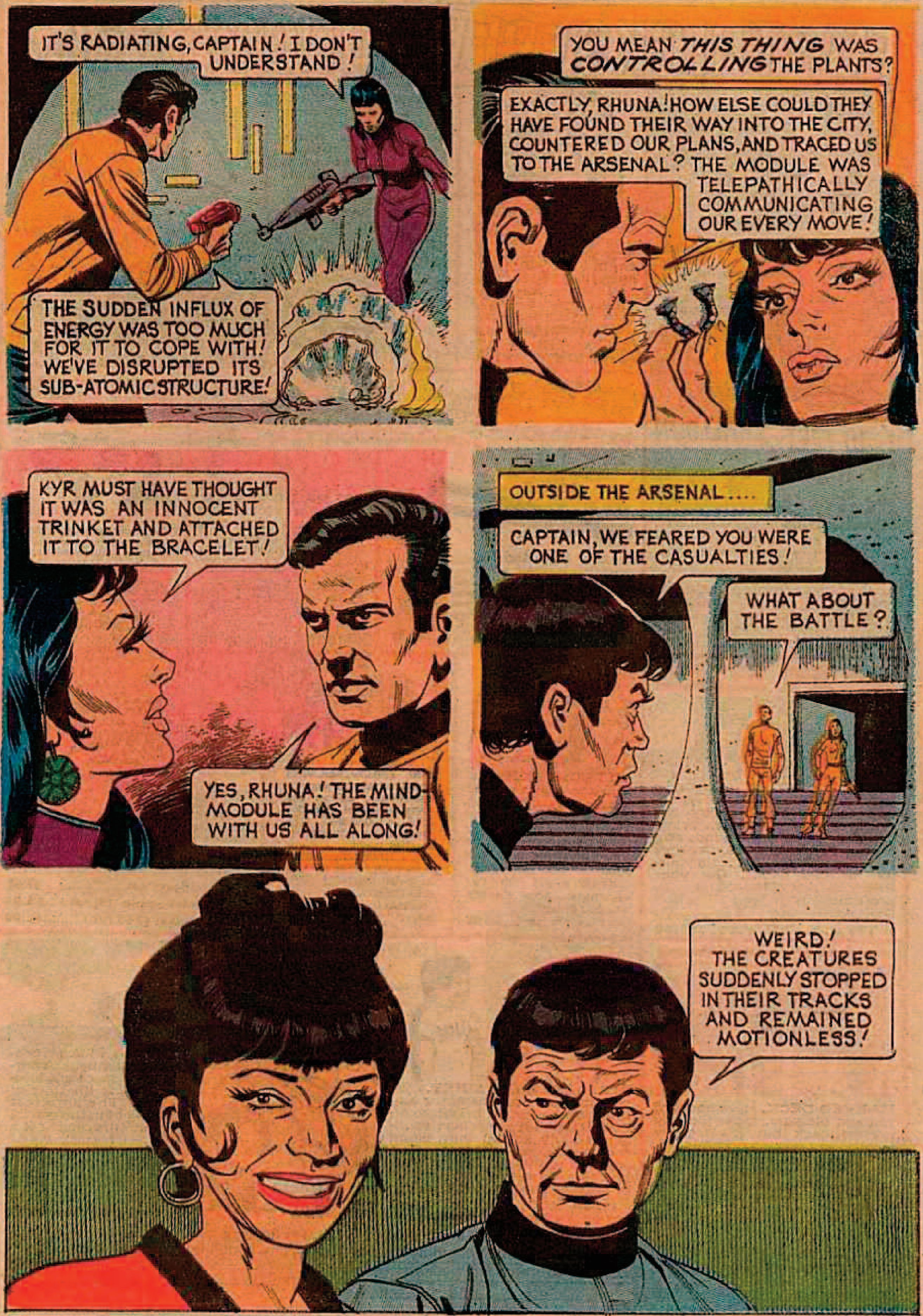

THEN WE'D BETTER NOT WASTE TIME! DR. McCOY AND LT. UHURA CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!

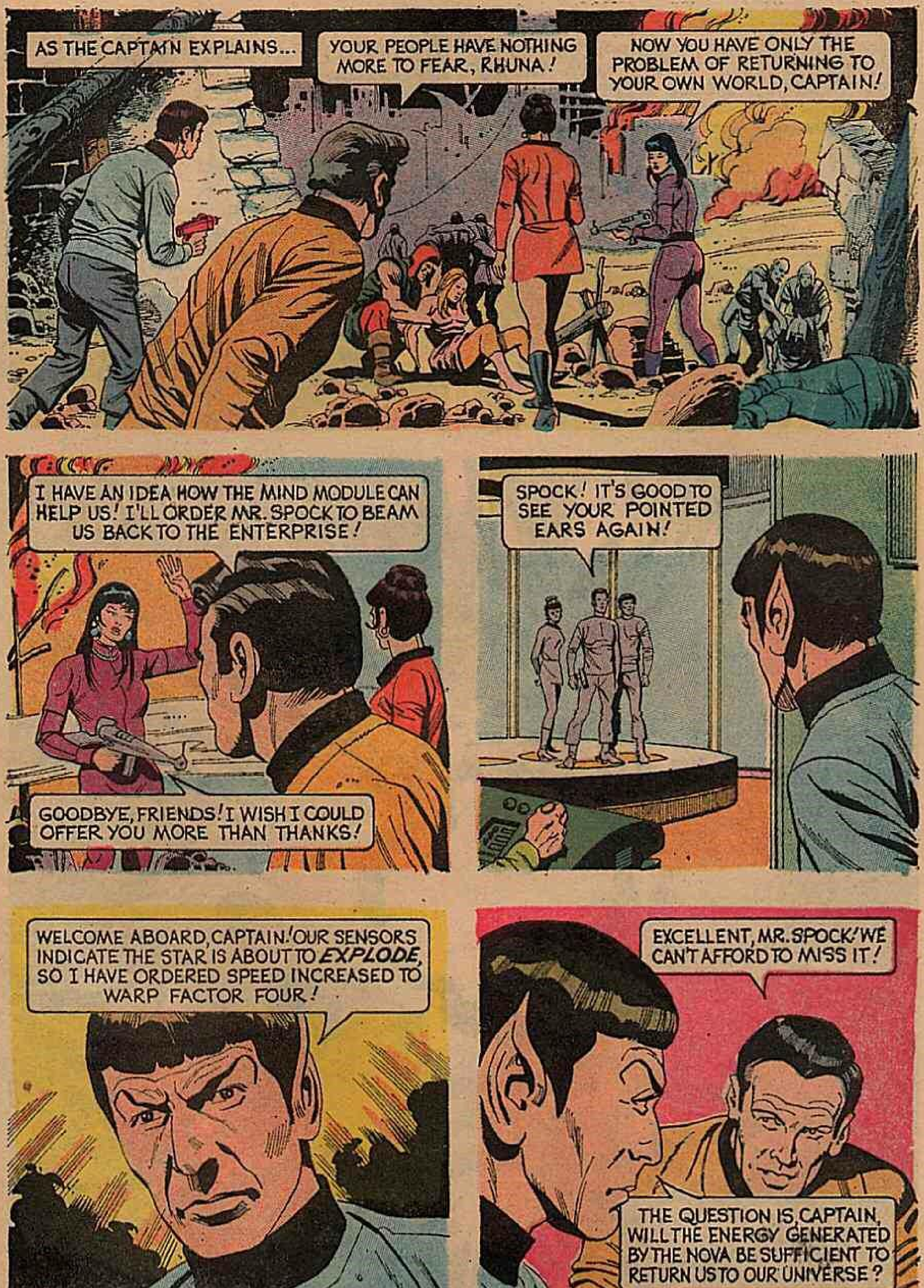

HURRY, CAPTAIN, BEFORE THE VEGETABLE MEN DISCOVER US!

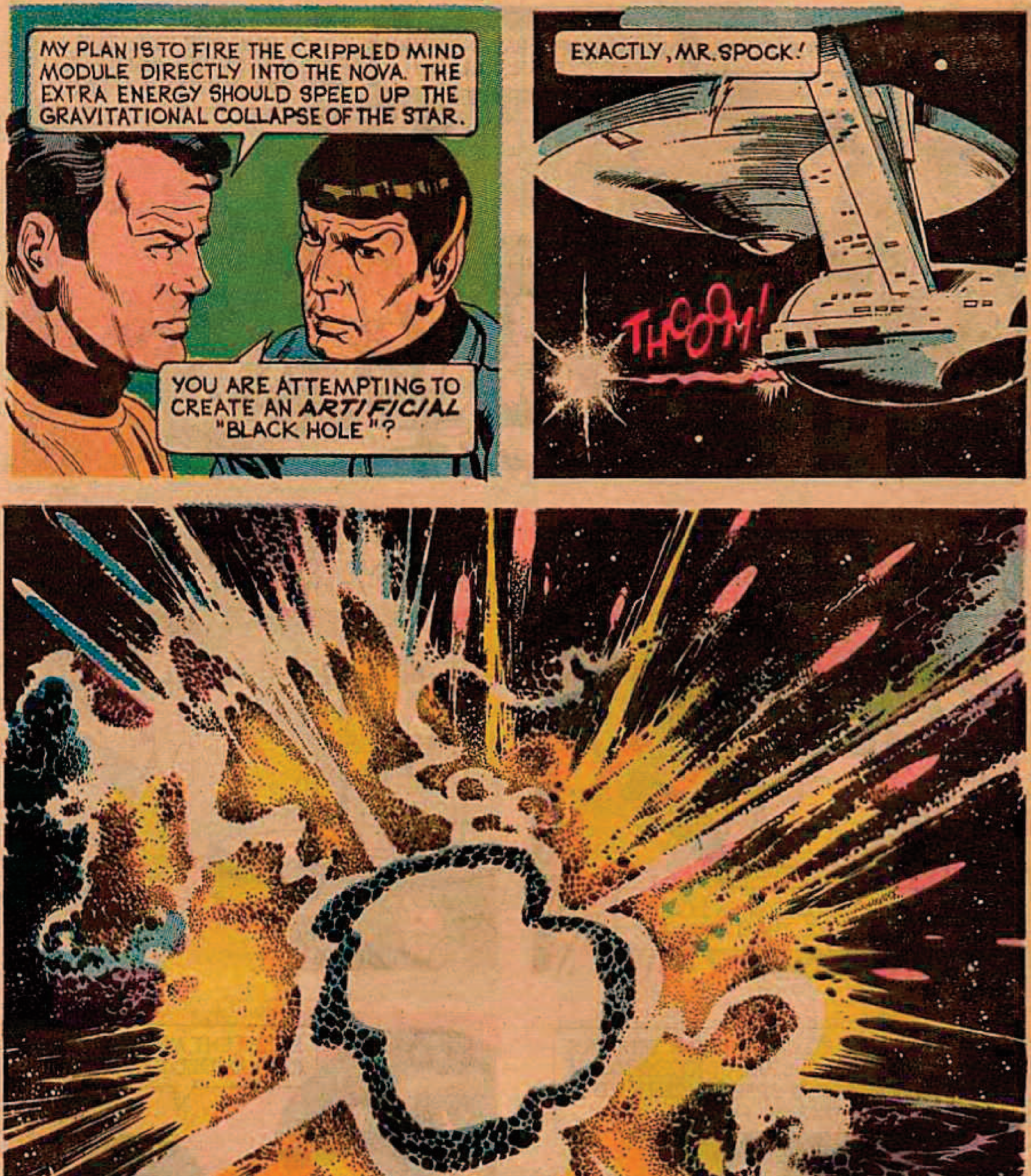

A LITTLE OUTDATED PERHAPS, BUT THEY'LL GIVE US A FIGHTING CHANCE!
WHY DOES IT ALWAYS SEEM THERE'S NO OTHER ANSWER?
SPOCK TO CAPTAIN KIRK! HOW GOES THE BATTLE, SIR?
IT'S TOO EARLY TO TELL, SPOCK, BUT I THINK IT MAY JUST HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE BETTER!
I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS! OUR SENSORS SHOW THAT A NEARBY STAR IS LIKELY TO GO NOVA WITHIN SIX HOURS! DO YOU REALIZE THE IMPLICATION, CAPTAIN?
CERTAINLY, MR. SPOCK! IF WE CAN EMPLOY THE ENERGY DISCHARGED BY THE NOVA, MAYBE WE CAN GENERATE ENOUGH ENERGY TO GET US BACK TO OUR OWN *UNIVERSE!*
CLANK!
SPOCK, WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THIS LATER! I THINK OUR MOMENT OF RESPITE IS OVER!

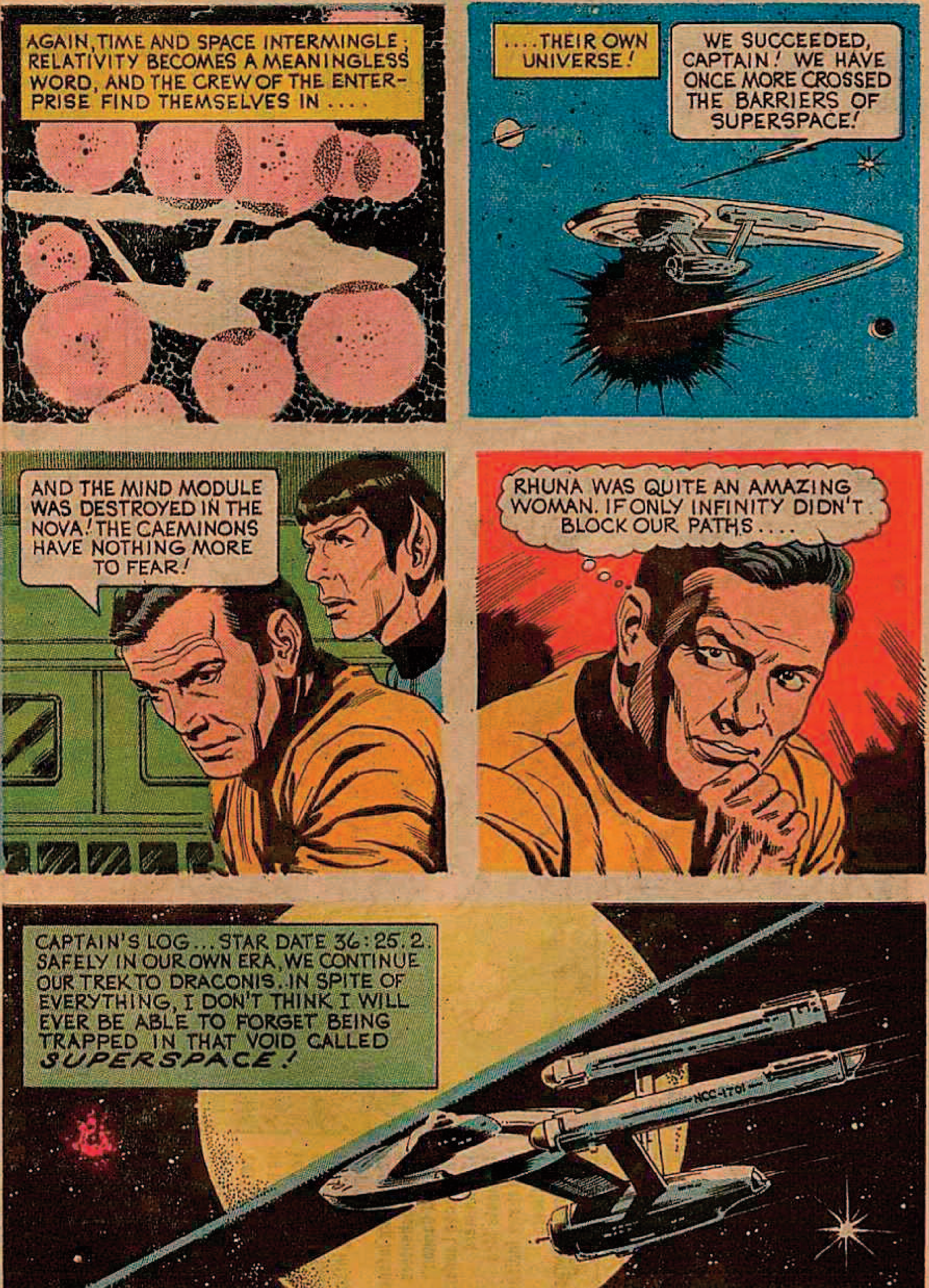

CAPTAIN, THEY'VE TRACED US HERE! THEY'RE ATTACKING!
THEN IT'S TIME TO PUT THESE OLD WEAPONS TO USE!
I USED TO BE A PRETTY FAIR SWORDSMAN BACK AT THE SPACE ACADEMY, BUT I CONFESS I'M A LITTLE OUT OF PRACTICE!
SWISH!!
STILL, THAT'S NOT BAD FOR A HAS-BEEN!
AT LEAST THESE THINGS ARE VULNERABLE. IF ONLY THERE WEREN'T SO MANY!
ODD! THE NEARER THOSE CREATURES ARE TO RHUNA, THE MORE HER BRACELET GLOWS! *WAIT--THAT'S IT!*

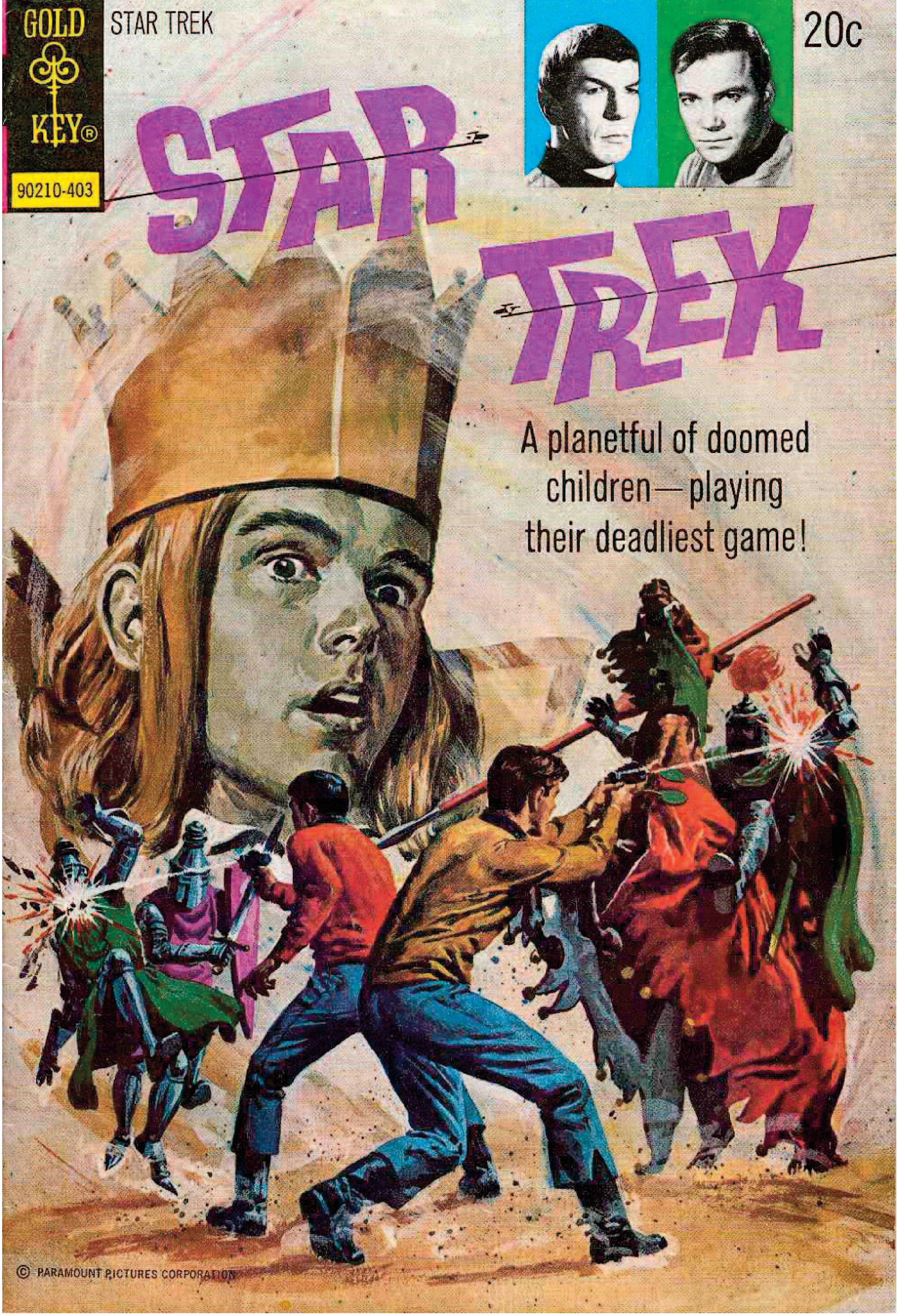

RHUNA -- THE *BRACELET!* TAKE IT OFF QUICKLY!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, CAPTAIN? WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO?
THERE'S NO TIME TO ARGUE! PLEASE, RHUNA ....*DO IT NOW!*
CAPTAIN, STOP! YOU'RE DESTROYING MY BRACELET!
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT MEANS TO ME!
OUR PHASER POWER IS NEARLY EXHAUSTED AND THOSE CREATURES STILL KEEP COMING!
THEY'RE CLOSING IN FOR THE KILL, DOCTOR! THIS LOOKS LIKE IT!
WAIT! THE CREATURES HAVE STOPPED, AS THOUGH THEY WERE SUDDENLY PARALYZED! BUT WHY?


IT'S RADIATING, CAPTAIN! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
THE SUDDEN INFLUX OF ENERGY WAS TOO MUCH FOR IT TO COPE WITH! WE'VE DISRUPTED ITS SUB-ATOMIC STRUCTURE!
YOU MEAN *THIS THING* WAS *CONTROLLING* THE PLANTS?
EXACTLY, RHUNA! HOW ELSE COULD THEY HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY INTO THE CITY, COUNTERED OUR PLANS, AND TRACED US TO THE ARSENAL? THE MODULE WAS TELEPATHICALLY COMMUNICATING OUR EVERY MOVE!
KYR MUST HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS AN INNOCENT TRINKET AND ATTACHED IT TO THE BRACELET!
YES, RHUNA! THE MIND-MODULE HAS BEEN WITH US ALL ALONG!
OUTSIDE THE ARSENAL....
CAPTAIN, WE FEARED YOU WERE ONE OF THE CASUALTIES!
WHAT ABOUT THE BATTLE?
WEIRD! THE CREATURES SUDDENLY STOPPED IN THEIR TRACKS AND REMAINED MOTIONLESS!


AS THE CAPTAIN EXPLAINS...
YOUR PEOPLE HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR, RHUNA!
NOW YOU HAVE ONLY THE PROBLEM OF RETURNING TO YOUR OWN WORLD, CAPTAIN!
I HAVE AN IDEA HOW THE MIND MODULE CAN HELP US! I'LL ORDER MR. SPOCK TO BEAM US BACK TO THE ENTERPRISE!
GOODBYE, FRIENDS! I WISH I COULD OFFER YOU MORE THAN THANKS!
SPOCK! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOUR POINTED EARS AGAIN!
WELCOME ABOARD, CAPTAIN! OUR SENSORS INDICATE THE STAR IS ABOUT TO *EXPLODE*, SO I HAVE ORDERED SPEED INCREASED TO WARP FACTOR FOUR!
EXCELLENT, MR. SPOCK! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS IT!
THE QUESTION IS, CAPTAIN, WILL THE ENERGY GENERATED BY THE NOVA BE SUFFICIENT TO RETURN US TO OUR UNIVERSE?


MY PLAN IS TO FIRE THE CRIPPLED MIND MODULE DIRECTLY INTO THE NOVA. THE EXTRA ENERGY SHOULD SPEED UP THE GRAVITATIONAL COLLAPSE OF THE STAR.
YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO CREATE AN *ARTIFICIAL* "BLACK HOLE"?
EXACTLY, MR. SPOCK!
THOOOM!


AGAIN, TIME AND SPACE INTERMINGLE; RELATIVITY BECOMES A MEANINGLESS WORD, AND THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE FIND THEMSELVES IN ....
....THEIR OWN UNIVERSE!
WE SUCCEEDED, CAPTAIN! WE HAVE ONCE MORE CROSSED THE BARRIERS OF SUPERSPACE!
AND THE MIND MODULE WAS DESTROYED IN THE NOVA! THE CAEMINONS HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR!
RHUNA WAS QUITE AN AMAZING WOMAN. IF ONLY INFINITY DIDN'T BLOCK OUR PATHS....
CAPTAIN'S LOG... STAR DATE 36:25.2. SAFELY IN OUR OWN ERA, WE CONTINUE OUR TREK TO DRACONIS. IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, I DON'T THINK I WILL EVER BE ABLE TO FORGET BEING TRAPPED IN THAT VOID CALLED *SUPERSPACE!*
NCC-1701
THE END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STAR TREK
A planetful of doomed children—playing their deadliest game!
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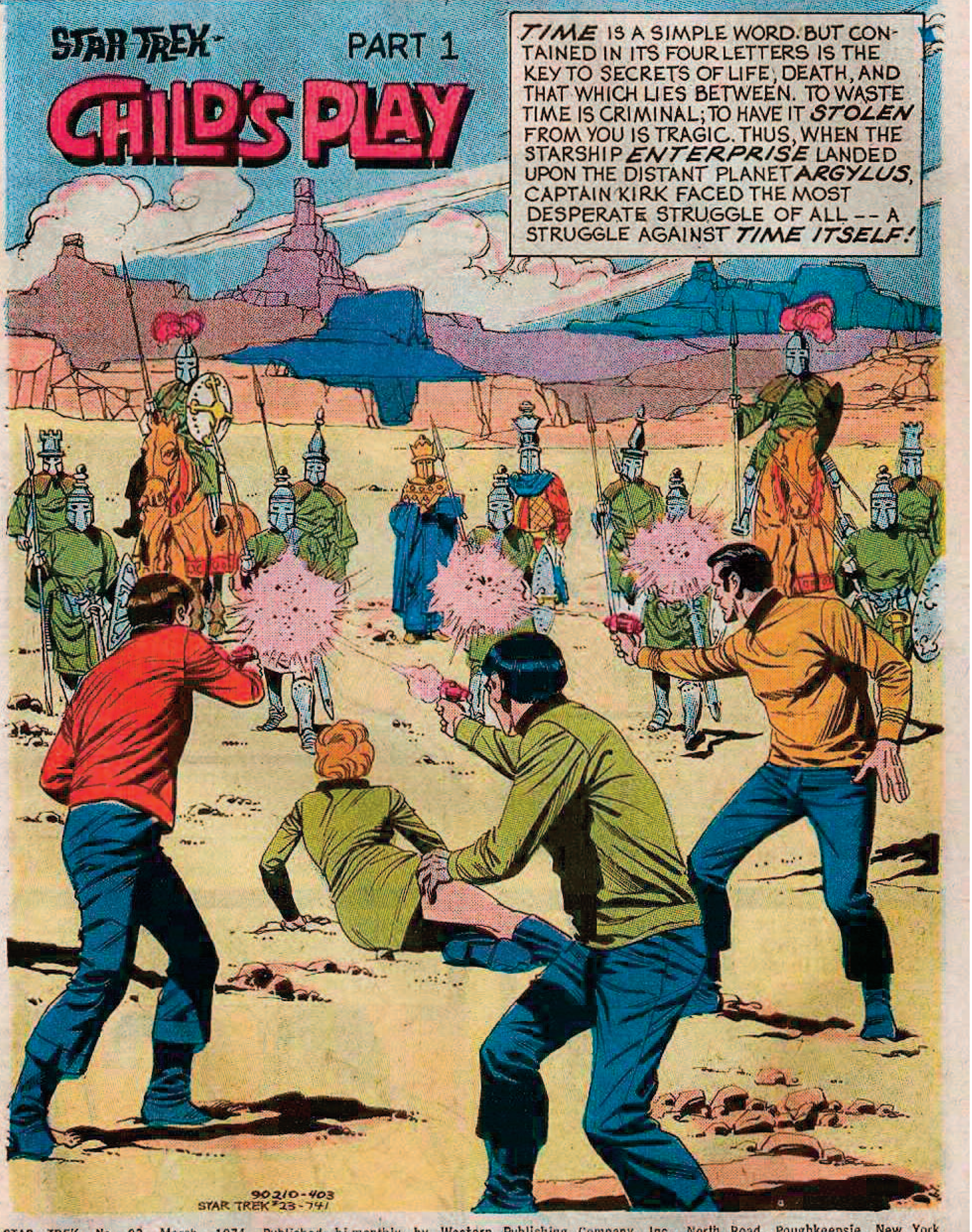
STAR TREK
PART 1
CHILD'S PLAY
TIME IS A SIMPLE WORD. BUT CONTAINED IN ITS FOUR LETTERS IS THE KEY TO SECRETS OF LIFE, DEATH, AND THAT WHICH LIES BETWEEN. TO WASTE TIME IS CRIMINAL; TO HAVE IT *STOLEN* FROM YOU IS TRAGIC. THUS, WHEN THE STARSHIP *ENTERPRISE* LANDED UPON THE DISTANT PLANET *ARGYLUS*, CAPTAIN KIRK FACED THE MOST DESPERATE STRUGGLE OF ALL -- A STRUGGLE AGAINST *TIME ITSELF!*
90210-403
STAR TREK #23-741

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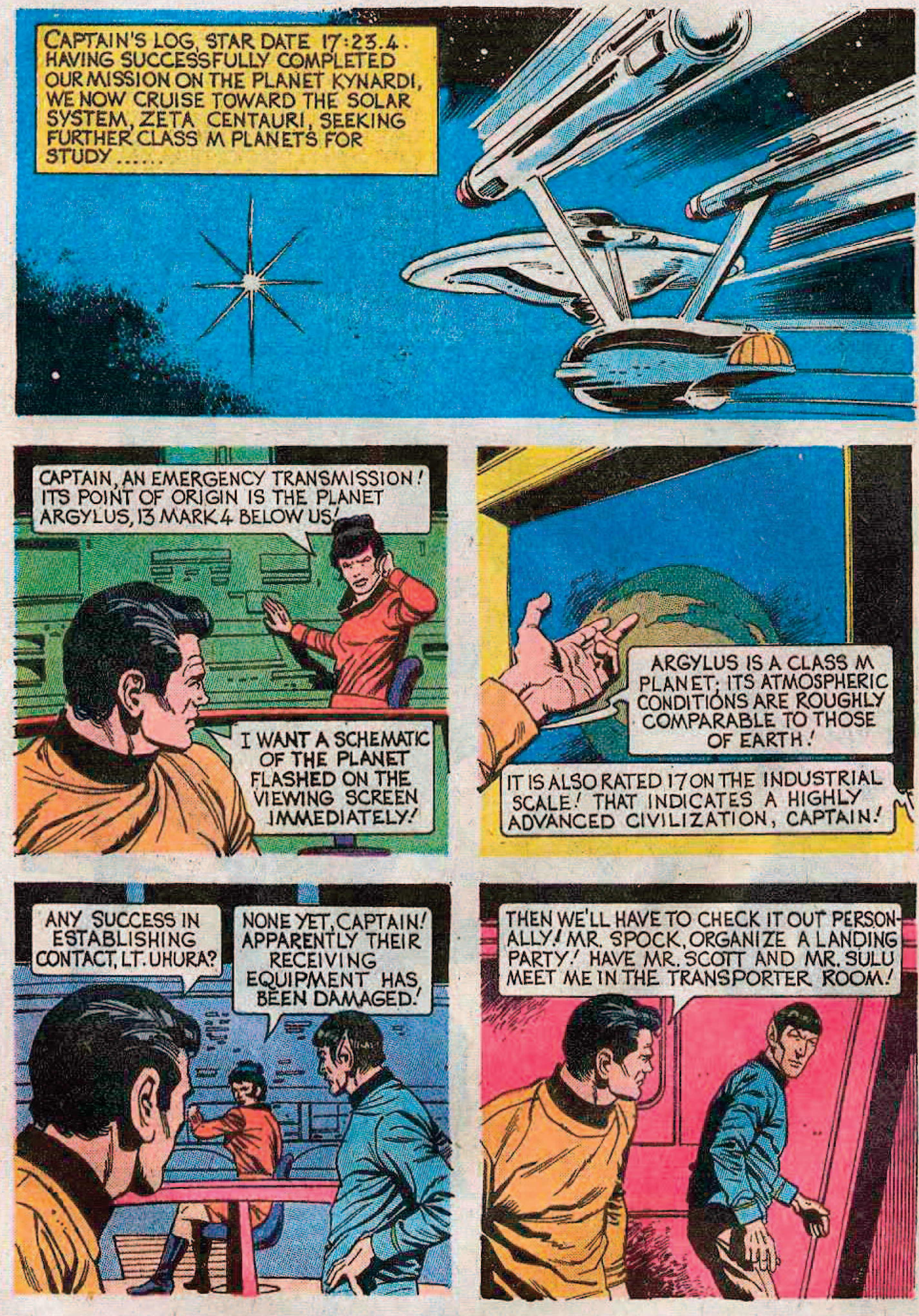
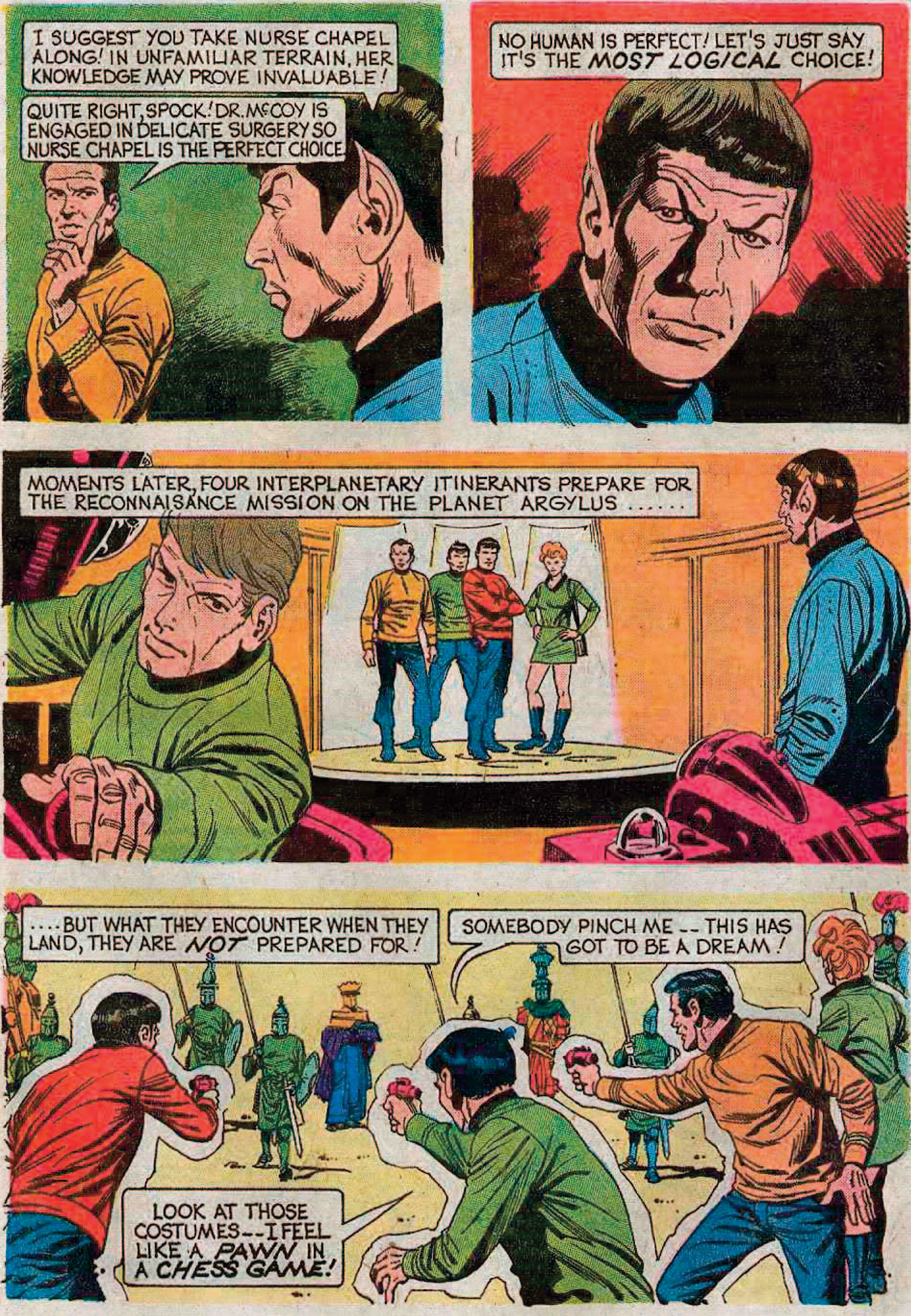
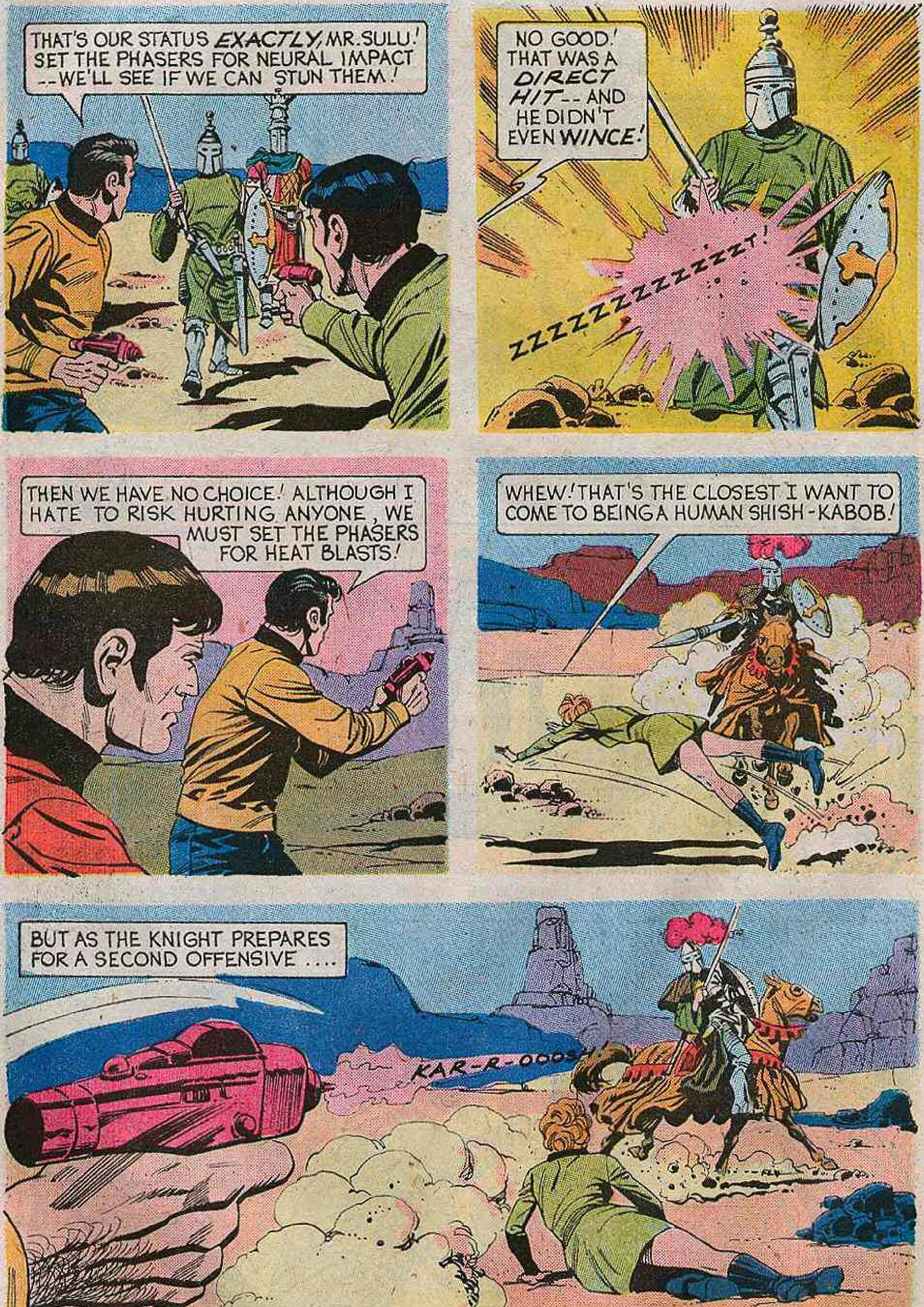
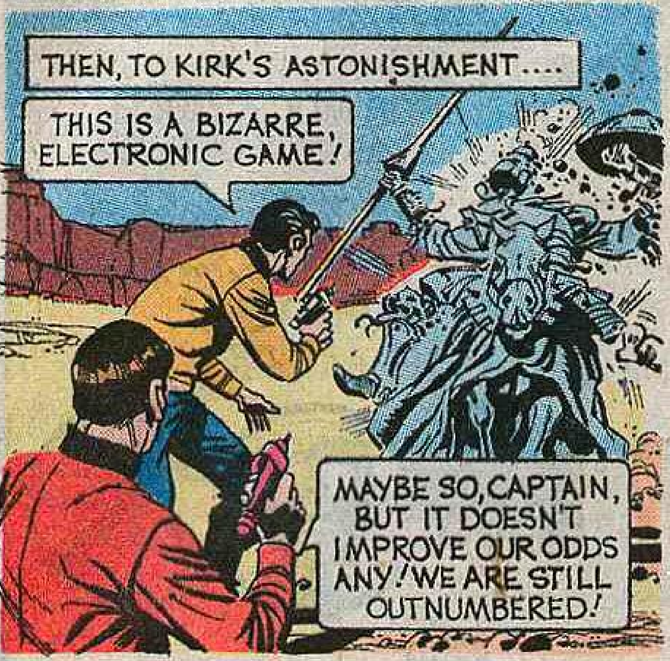
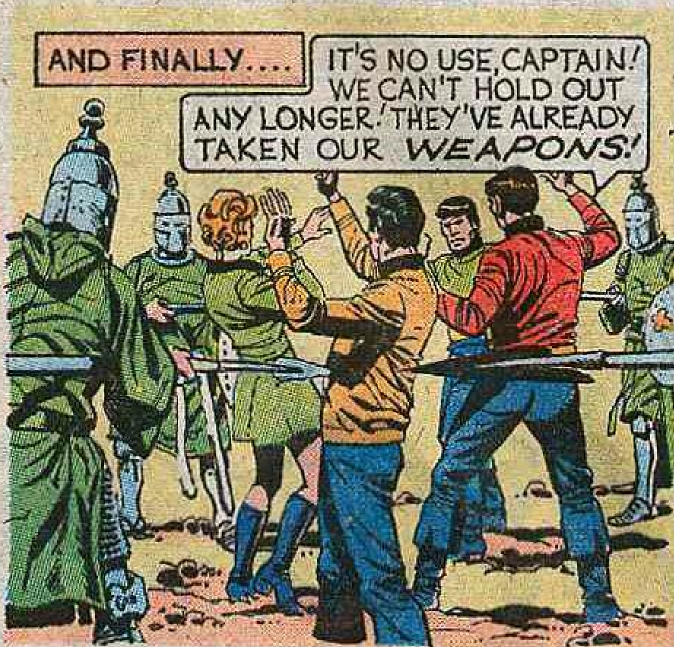
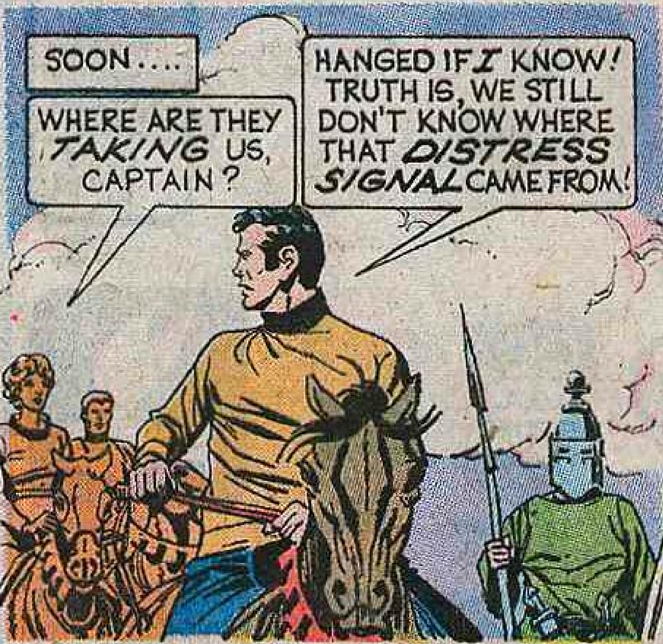

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 17:23.4. HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED OUR MISSION ON THE PLANET KYNARDI, WE NOW CRUISE TOWARD THE SOLAR SYSTEM, ZETA CENTAURI, SEEKING FURTHER CLASS M PLANETS FOR STUDY......
CAPTAIN, AN EMERGENCY TRANSMISSION! ITS POINT OF ORIGIN IS THE PLANET ARGYLUS, 13 MARK 4 BELOW US!
I WANT A SCHEMATIC OF THE PLANET FLASHED ON THE VIEWING SCREEN IMMEDIATELY!
ARGYLUS IS A CLASS M PLANET; ITS ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS ARE ROUGHLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF EARTH!
IT IS ALSO RATED 17 ON THE INDUSTRIAL SCALE! THAT INDICATES A HIGHLY ADVANCED CIVILIZATION, CAPTAIN!
ANY SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT, LT. UHURA?
NONE YET, CAPTAIN! APPARENTLY THEIR RECEIVING EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DAMAGED!
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK IT OUT PERSONALLY! MR. SPOCK, ORGANIZE A LANDING PARTY! HAVE MR. SCOTT AND MR. SULU MEET ME IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM!

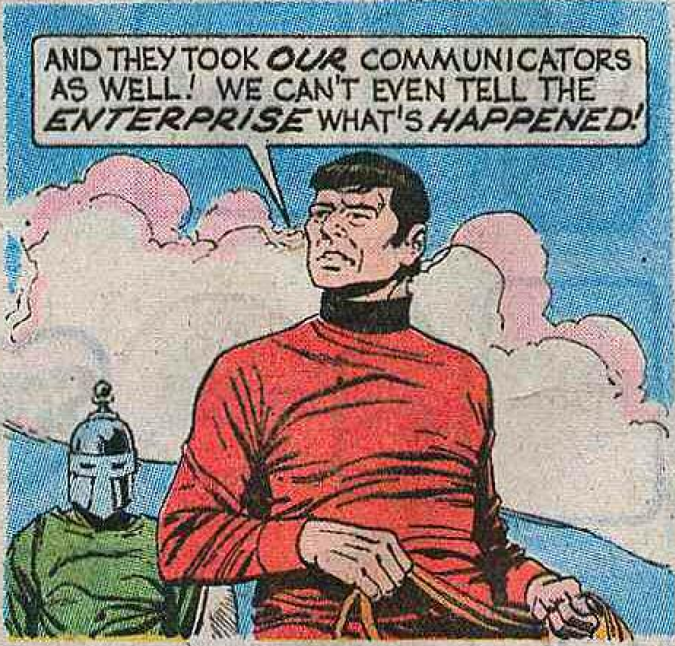

I SUGGEST YOU TAKE NURSE CHAPEL ALONG! IN UNFAMILIAR TERRAIN, HER KNOWLEDGE MAY PROVE INVALUABLE!
QUITE RIGHT, SPOCK! DR. McCOY IS ENGAGED IN DELICATE SURGERY SO NURSE CHAPEL IS THE PERFECT CHOICE
NO HUMAN IS PERFECT! LET'S JUST SAY IT'S THE *MOST LOGICAL* CHOICE!
MOMENTS LATER, FOUR INTERPLANETARY ITINERANTS PREPARE FOR THE RECONNAISANCE MISSION ON THE PLANET ARGYLUS ......
....BUT WHAT THEY ENCOUNTER WHEN THEY LAND, THEY ARE *NOT* PREPARED FOR!
SOMEBODY PINCH ME -- THIS HAS GOT TO BE A DREAM!
LOOK AT THOSE COSTUMES--I FEEL LIKE A *PAWN* IN A *CHESS GAME*!

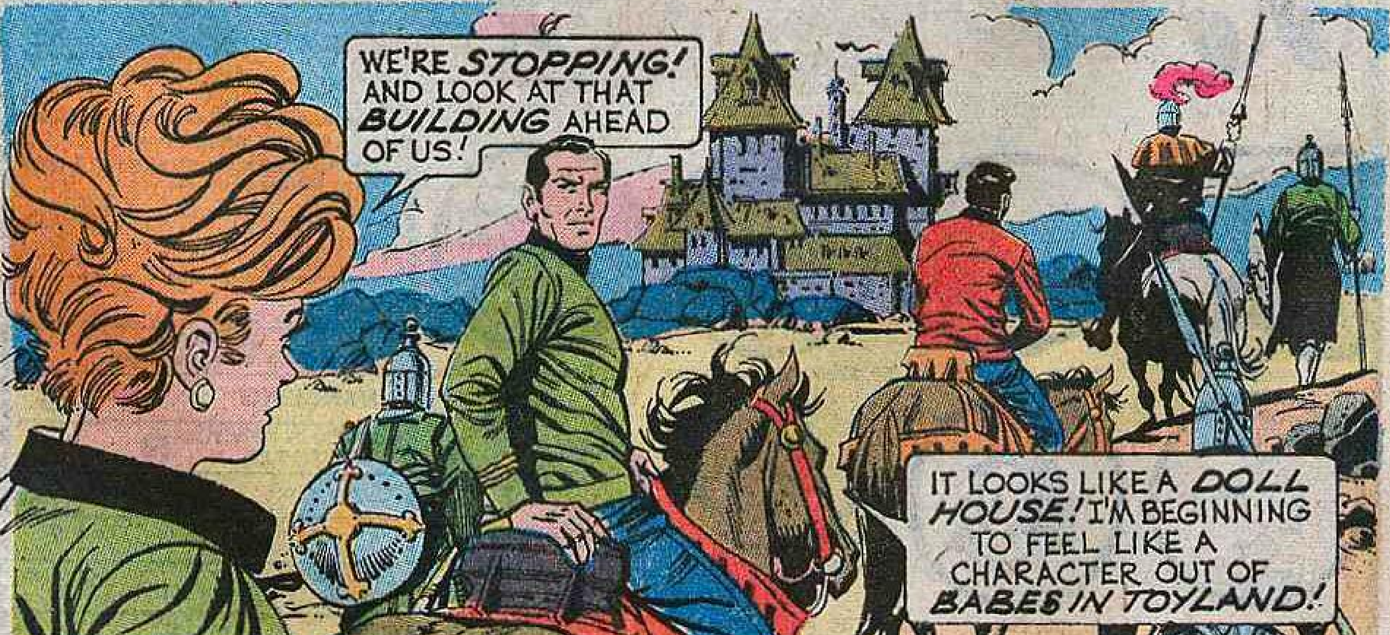

THAT'S OUR STATUS EXACTLY, MR. SULU! SET THE PHASERS FOR NEURAL IMPACT --WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN STUN THEM!
NO GOOD! THAT WAS A DIRECT HIT-- AND HE DIDN'T EVEN WINCE!
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZT!
THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE! ALTHOUGH I HATE TO RISK HURTING ANYONE, WE MUST SET THE PHASERS FOR HEAT BLASTS!
WHEW! THAT'S THE CLOSEST I WANT TO COME TO BEING A HUMAN SHISH-KABOB!
BUT AS THE KNIGHT PREPARES FOR A SECOND OFFENSIVE ....
KAR-R-OOOSH!

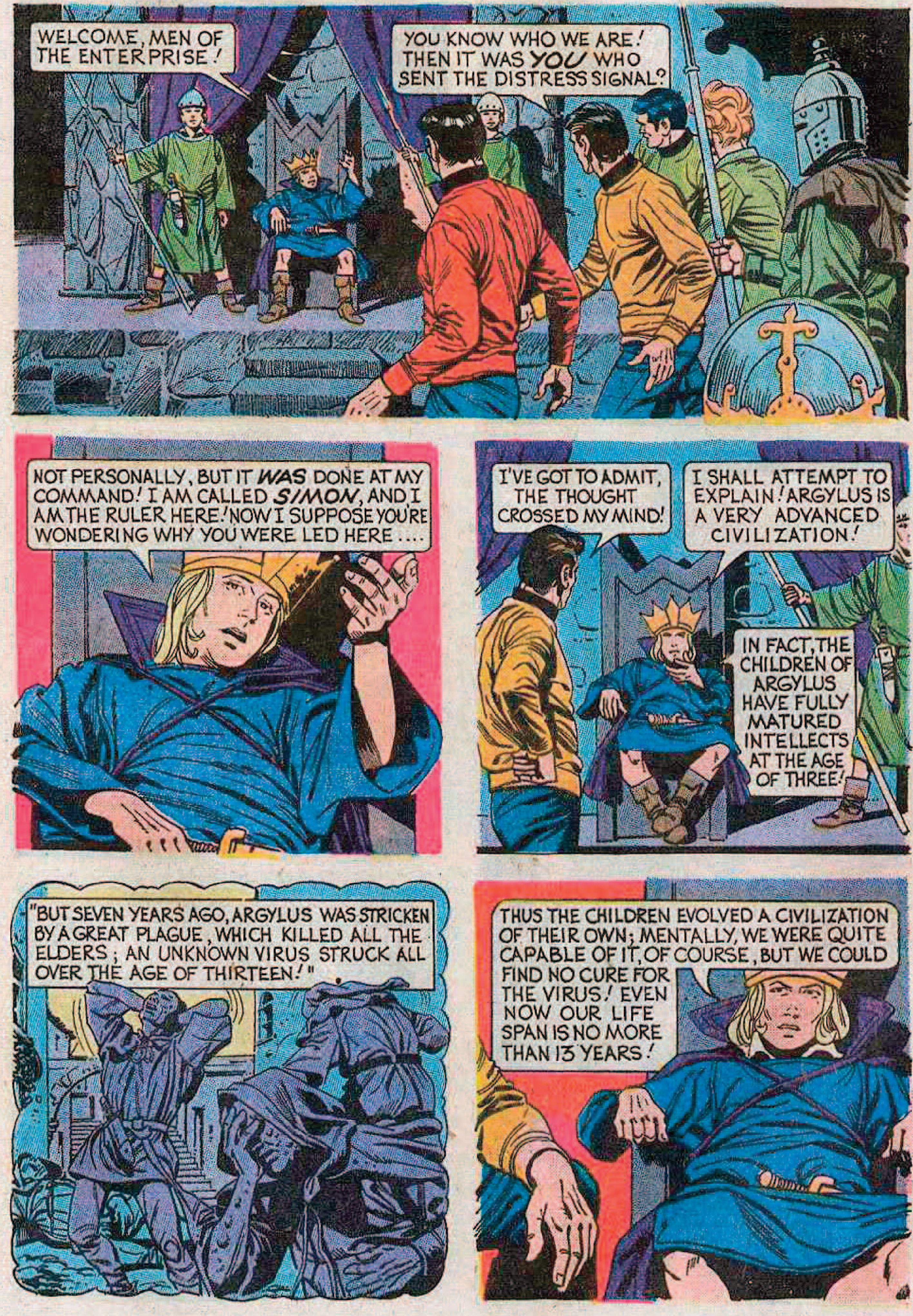

THEN, TO KIRK'S ASTONISHMENT....
THIS IS A BIZARRE, ELECTRONIC GAME!
MAYBE SO, CAPTAIN, BUT IT DOESN'T IMPROVE OUR ODDS ANY! WE ARE STILL OUTNUMBERED!

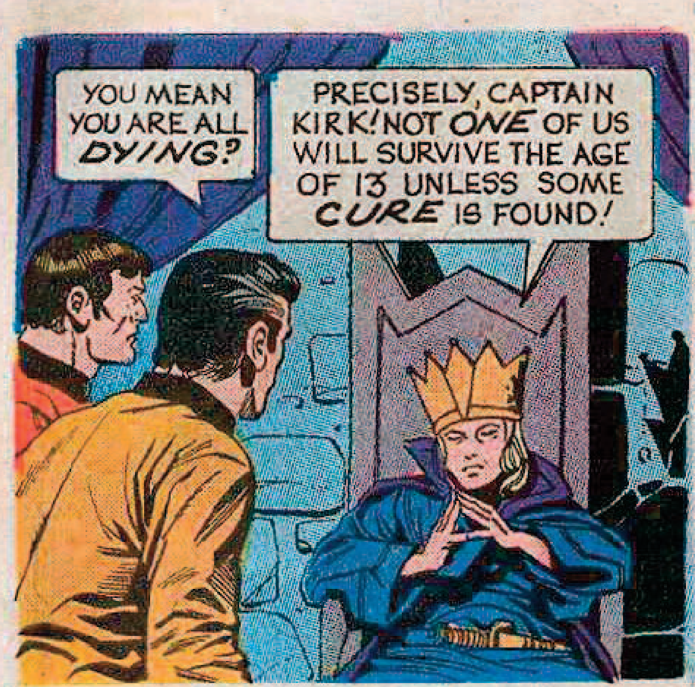

AND FINALLY....
IT'S NO USE, CAPTAIN! WE CAN'T HOLD OUT ANY LONGER! THEY'VE ALREADY TAKEN OUR *WEAPONS!*

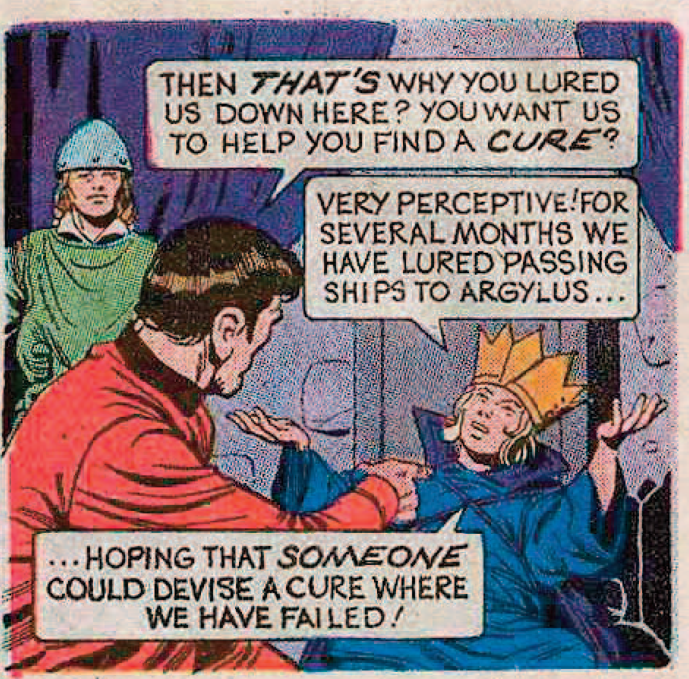

SOON....
WHERE ARE THEY *TAKING* US, CAPTAIN?
HANGED IF *I* KNOW! TRUTH IS, WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT *DISTRESS SIGNAL* CAME FROM!

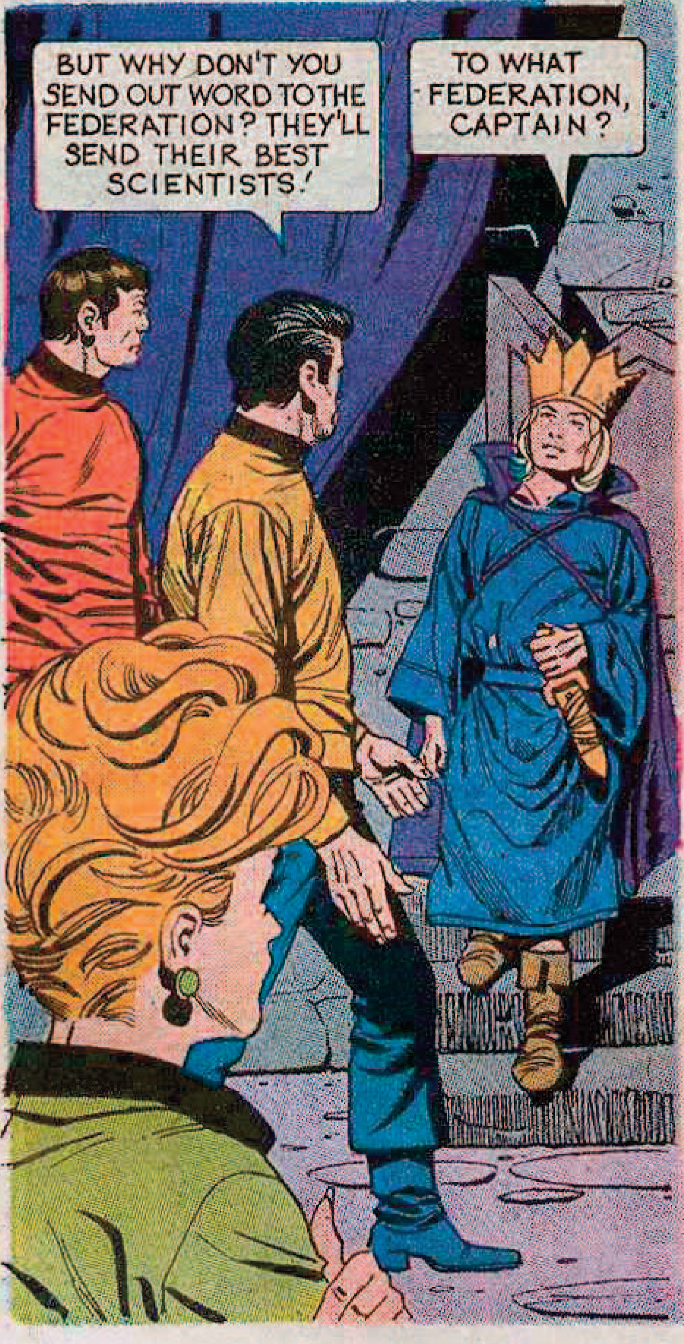

AND THEY TOOK *OUR* COMMUNICATORS AS WELL! WE CAN'T EVEN TELL THE *ENTERPRISE* WHAT'S *HAPPENED!*

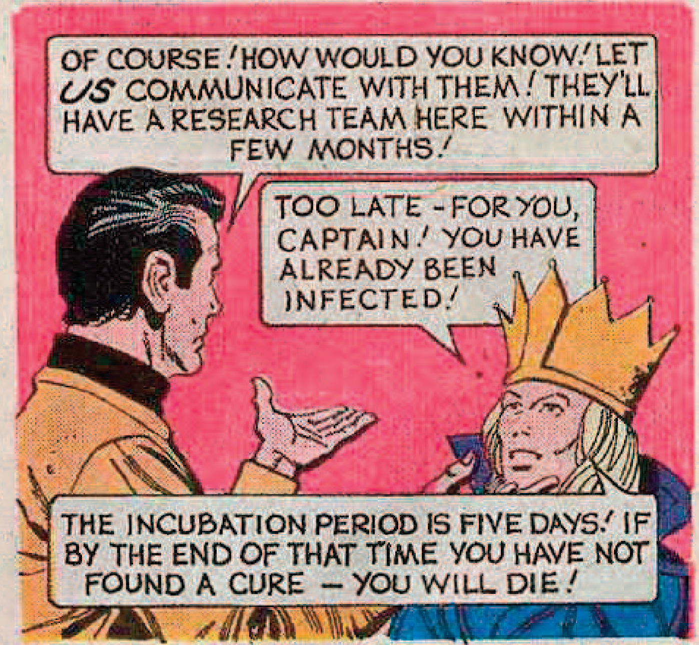

WE'RE *STOPPING!* AND LOOK AT THAT *BUILDING* AHEAD OF US!
IT LOOKS LIKE A *DOLL HOUSE!* I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A CHARACTER OUT OF *BABES IN TOYLAND!*

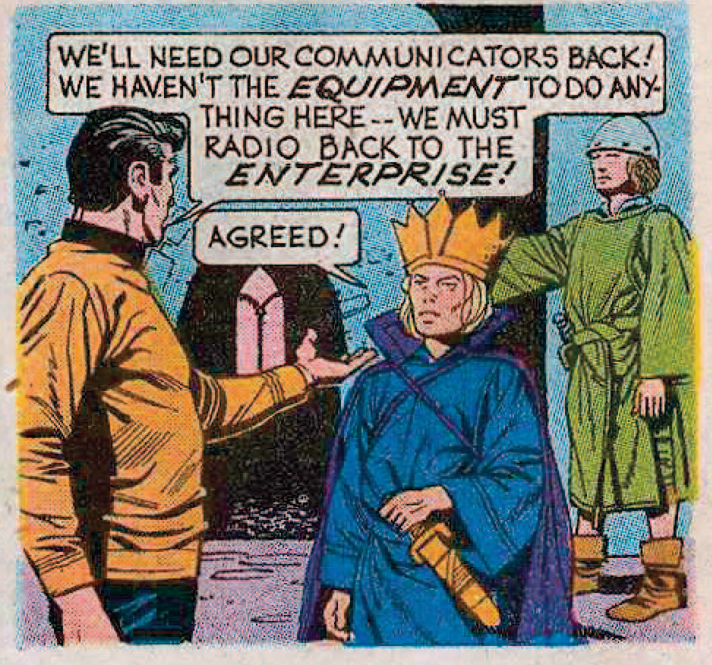

WELCOME, MEN OF THE ENTERPRISE!
YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE! THEN IT WAS *YOU* WHO SENT THE DISTRESS SIGNAL?
NOT PERSONALLY, BUT IT *WAS* DONE AT MY COMMAND! I AM CALLED *SIMON*, AND I AM THE RULER HERE! NOW I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING WHY YOU WERE LED HERE....
I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, THE THOUGHT CROSSED MY MIND!
I SHALL ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN! ARGYLUS IS A VERY ADVANCED CIVILIZATION!
IN FACT, THE CHILDREN OF ARGYLUS HAVE FULLY MATURED INTELLECTS AT THE AGE OF THREE!
"BUT SEVEN YEARS AGO, ARGYLUS WAS STRICKEN BY A GREAT PLAGUE, WHICH KILLED ALL THE ELDERS; AN UNKNOWN VIRUS STRUCK ALL OVER THE AGE OF THIRTEEN!"
THUS THE CHILDREN EVOLVED A CIVILIZATION OF THEIR OWN; MENTALLY, WE WERE QUITE CAPABLE OF IT, OF COURSE, BUT WE COULD FIND NO CURE FOR THE VIRUS! EVEN NOW OUR LIFE SPAN IS NO MORE THAN 13 YEARS!

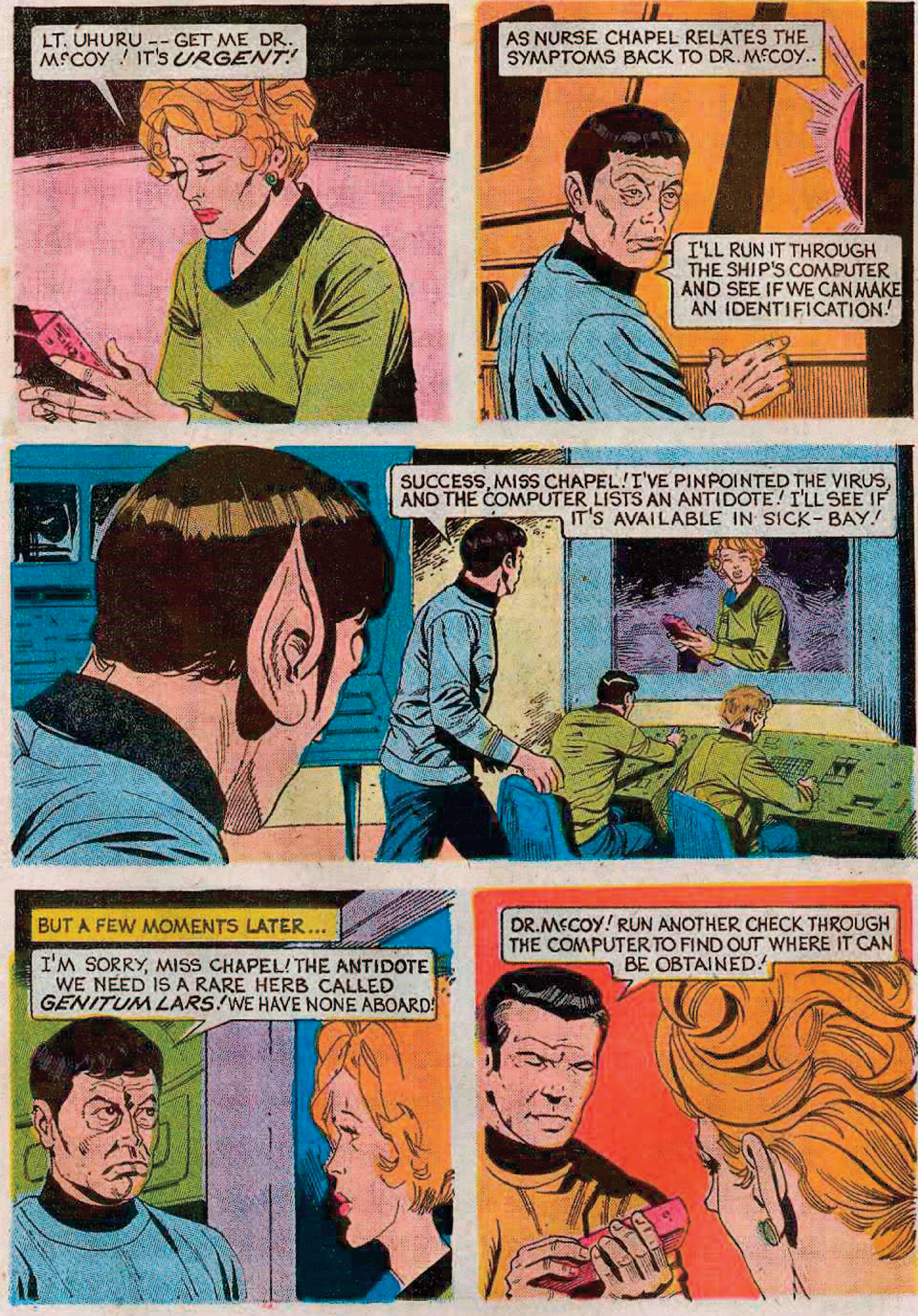

YOU MEAN YOU ARE ALL *DYING?*
PRECISELY, CAPTAIN KIRK! NOT *ONE* OF US WILL SURVIVE THE AGE OF 13 UNLESS SOME *CURE* IS FOUND!

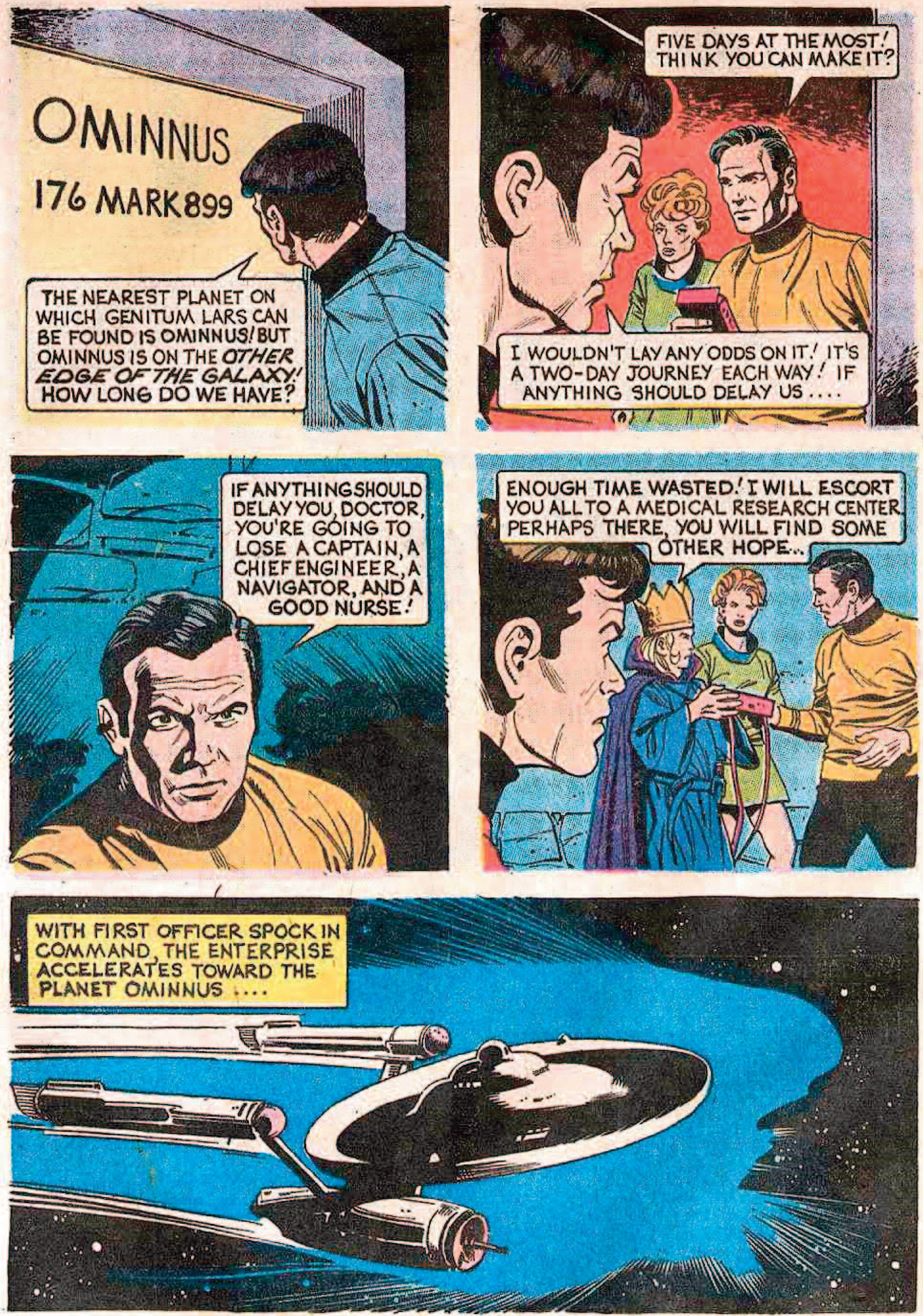

THEN *THAT'S* WHY YOU LURED US DOWN HERE? YOU WANT US TO HELP YOU FIND A *CURE*?
VERY PERCEPTIVE! FOR SEVERAL MONTHS WE HAVE LURED PASSING SHIPS TO ARGYLUS...
...HOPING THAT *SOMEONE* COULD DEVISE A CURE WHERE WE HAVE FAILED!

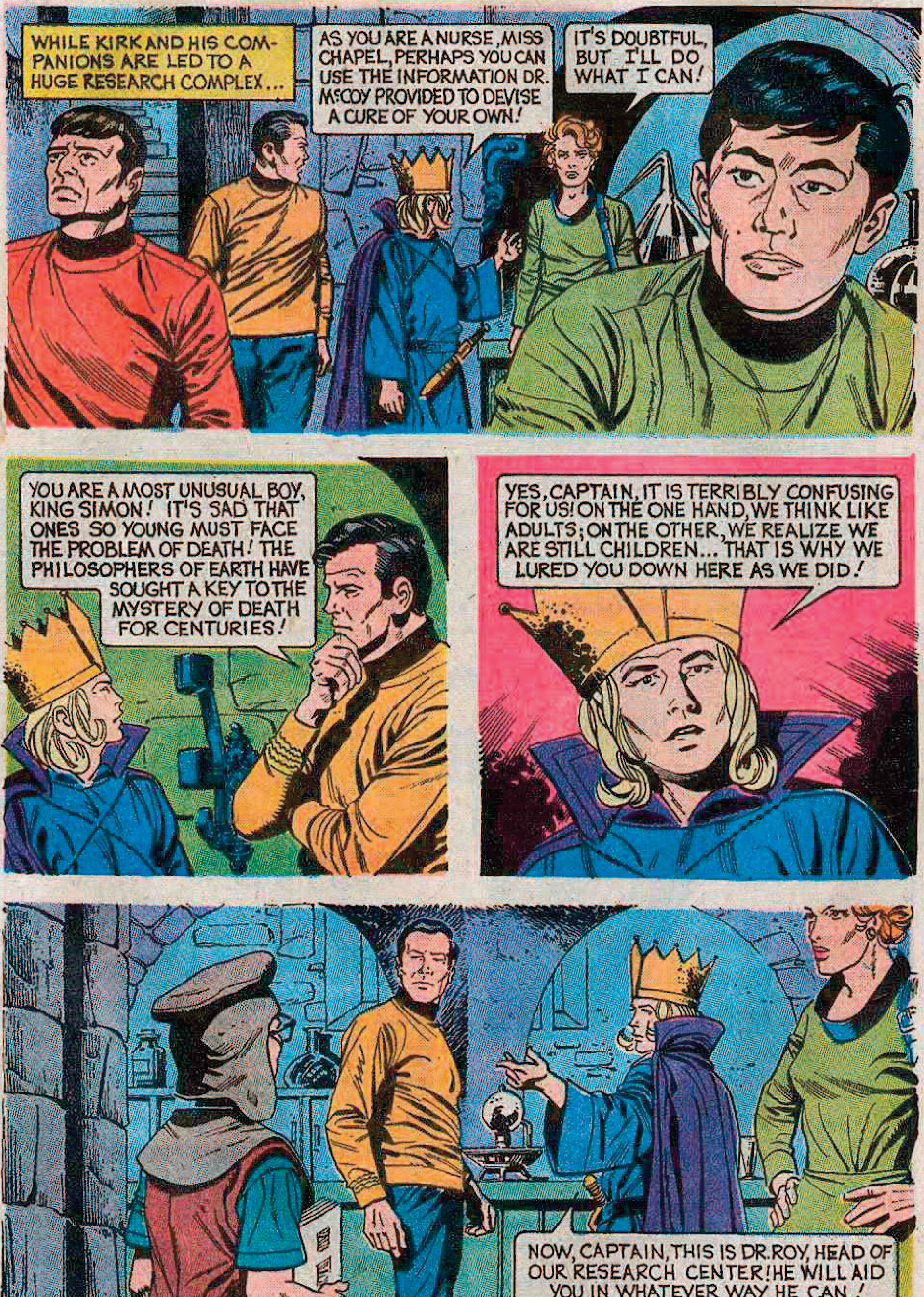

BUT WHY DON'T YOU SEND OUT WORD TO THE FEDERATION? THEY'LL SEND THEIR BEST SCIENTISTS!
TO WHAT FEDERATION, CAPTAIN?

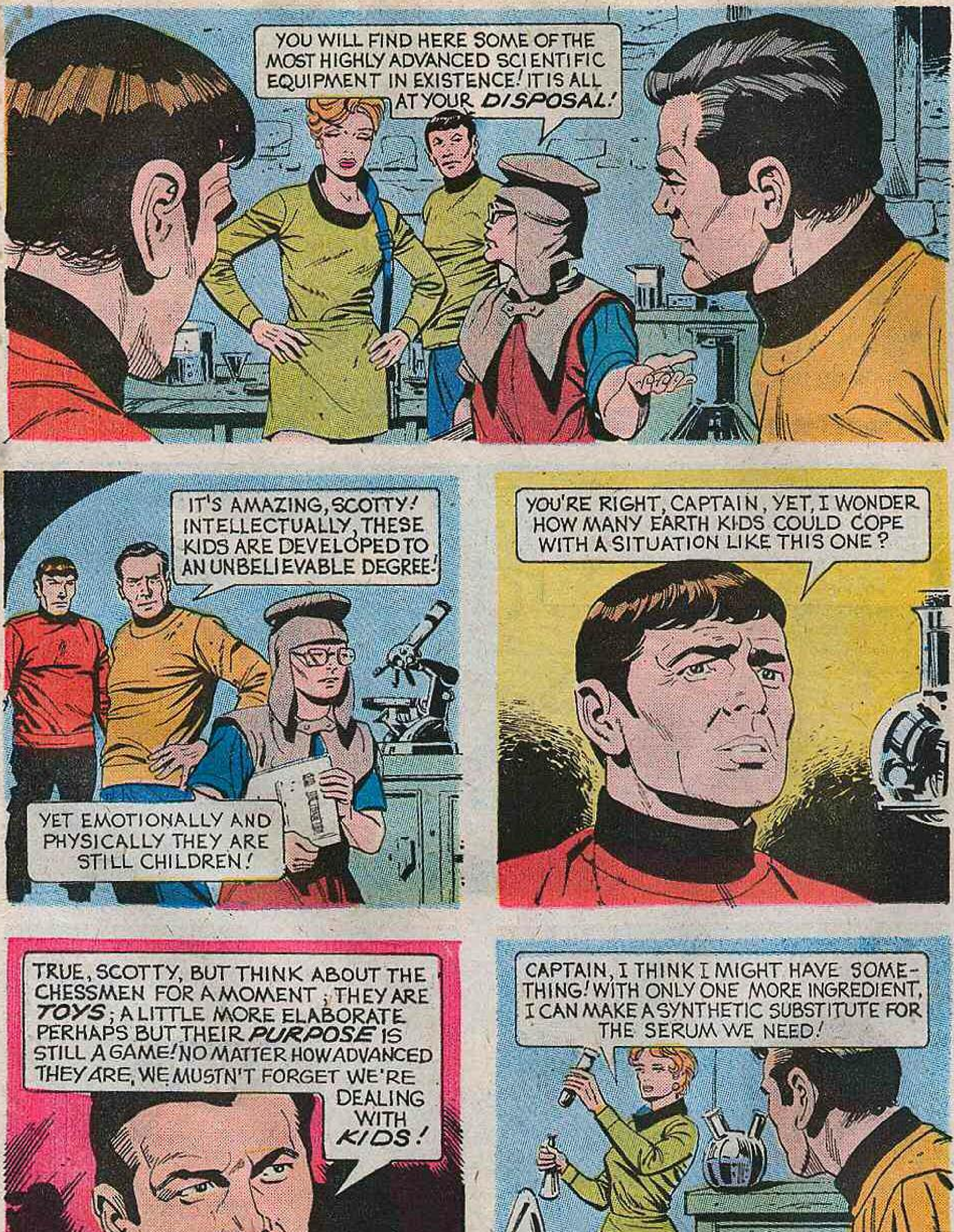

OF COURSE! HOW WOULD YOU KNOW! LET *US* COMMUNICATE WITH THEM! THEY'LL HAVE A RESEARCH TEAM HERE WITHIN A FEW MONTHS!
TOO LATE - FOR YOU, CAPTAIN! YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFECTED!
THE INCUBATION PERIOD IS FIVE DAYS! IF BY THE END OF THAT TIME YOU HAVE NOT FOUND A CURE — YOU WILL DIE!

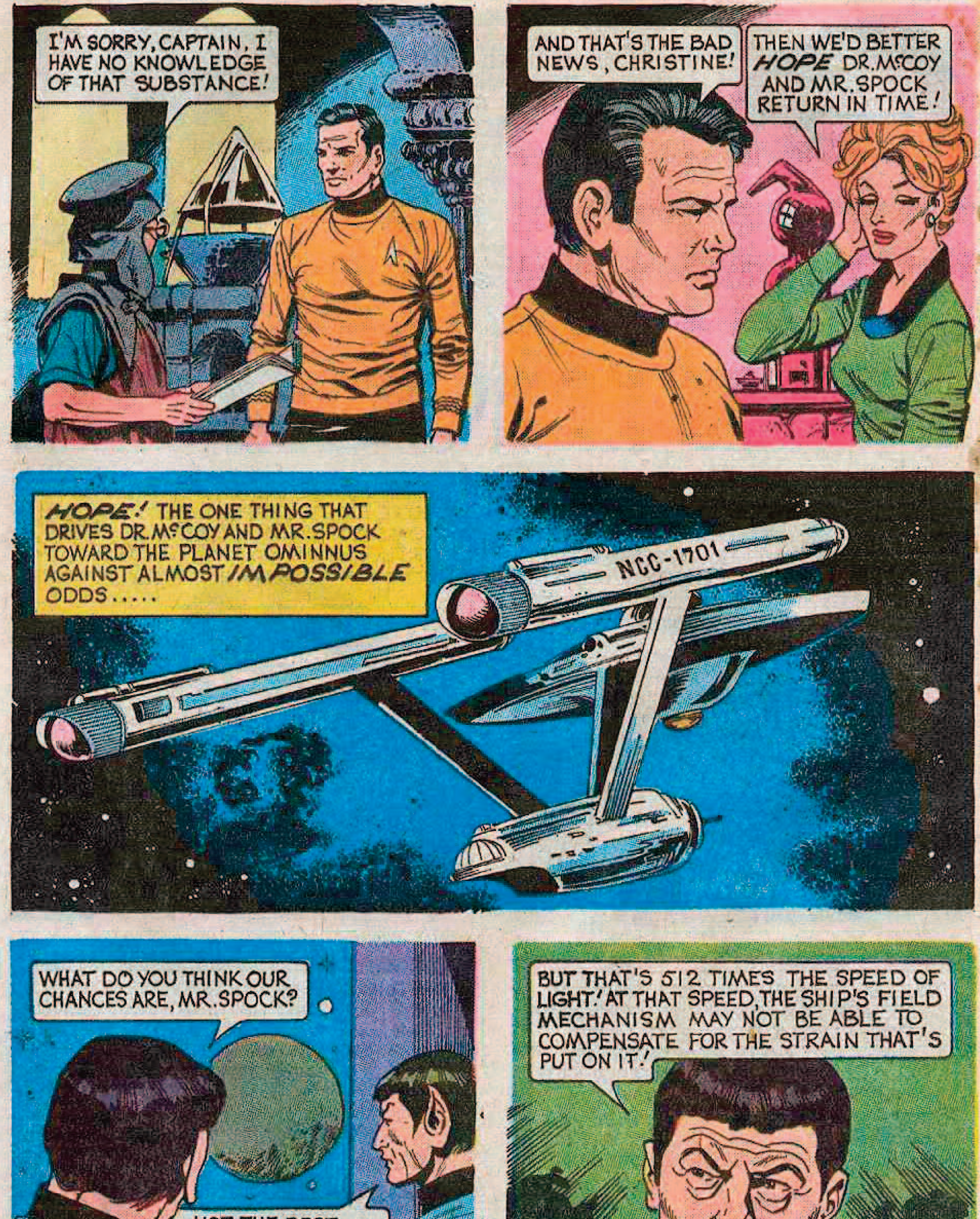

WE'LL NEED OUR COMMUNICATORS BACK! WE HAVEN'T THE *EQUIPMENT* TO DO ANYTHING HERE -- WE MUST RADIO BACK TO THE *ENTERPRISE!*
AGREED!

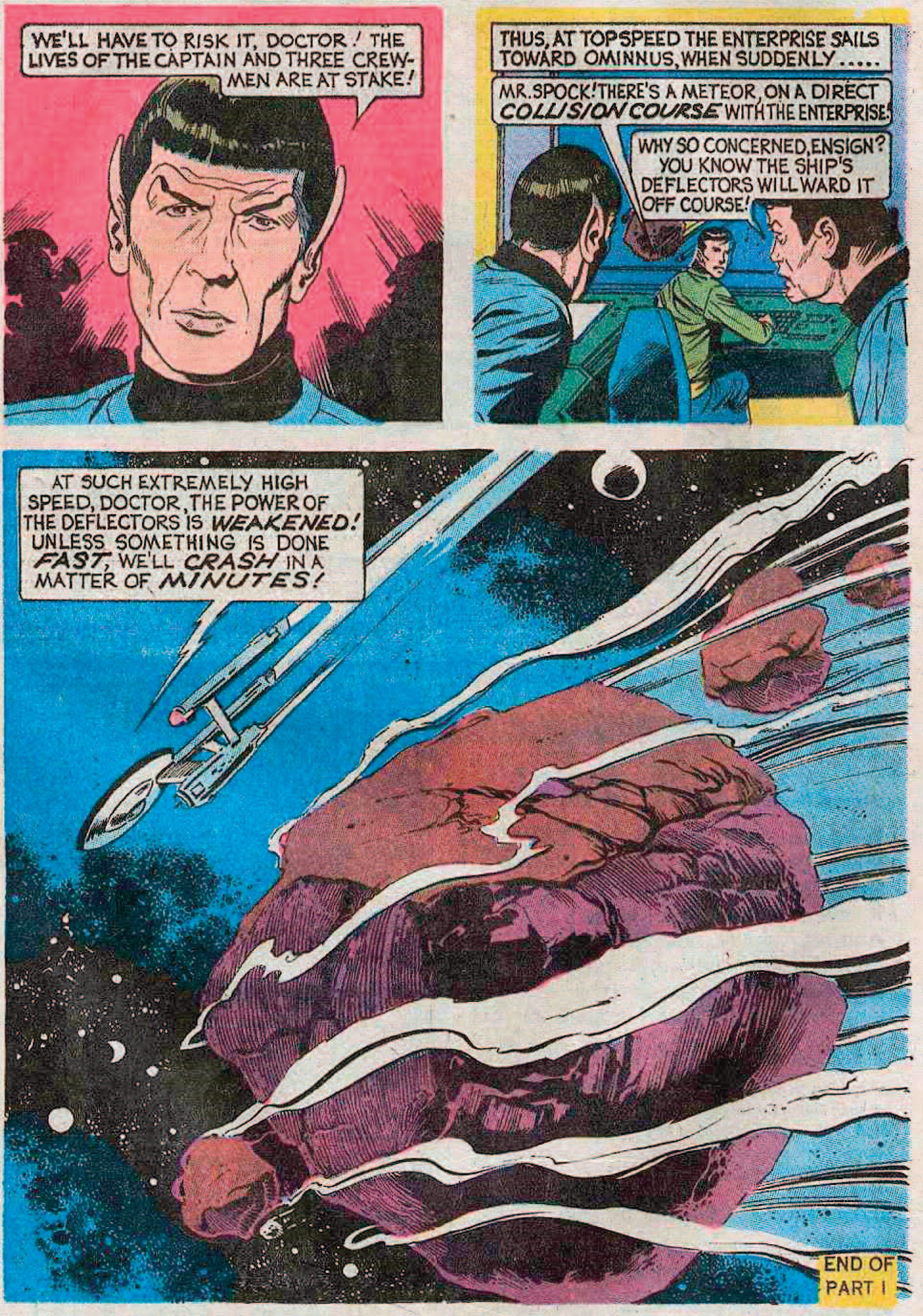

LT. UHURU -- GET ME DR. McCOY! IT'S URGENT!
AS NURSE CHAPEL RELATES THE SYMPTOMS BACK TO DR. McCOY..
I'LL RUN IT THROUGH THE SHIP'S COMPUTER AND SEE IF WE CAN MAKE AN IDENTIFICATION!
SUCCESS, MISS CHAPEL! I'VE PINPOINTED THE VIRUS, AND THE COMPUTER LISTS AN ANTIDOTE! I'LL SEE IF IT'S AVAILABLE IN SICK-BAY!
BUT A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
I'M SORRY, MISS CHAPEL! THE ANTIDOTE WE NEED IS A RARE HERB CALLED GENITUM LARS! WE HAVE NONE ABOARD!
DR. McCOY! RUN ANOTHER CHECK THROUGH THE COMPUTER TO FIND OUT WHERE IT CAN BE OBTAINED!


OMINNUS
176 MARK 899
THE NEAREST PLANET ON WHICH GENITUM LARS CAN BE FOUND IS OMINNUS! BUT OMINNUS IS ON THE *OTHER EDGE OF THE GALAXY!* HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?
FIVE DAYS AT THE MOST! THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT?
I WOULDN'T LAY ANY ODDS ON IT! IT'S A TWO-DAY JOURNEY EACH WAY! IF ANYTHING SHOULD DELAY US....
IF ANYTHING SHOULD DELAY YOU, DOCTOR, YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE A CAPTAIN, A CHIEF ENGINEER, A NAVIGATOR, AND A GOOD NURSE!
ENOUGH TIME WASTED! I WILL ESCORT YOU ALL TO A MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER PERHAPS THERE, YOU WILL FIND SOME OTHER HOPE..
WITH FIRST OFFICER SPOCK IN COMMAND, THE ENTERPRISE ACCELERATES TOWARD THE PLANET OMINNUS....


WHILE KIRK AND HIS COMPANIONS ARE LED TO A HUGE RESEARCH COMPLEX...
AS YOU ARE A NURSE, MISS CHAPEL, PERHAPS YOU CAN USE THE INFORMATION DR. McCOY PROVIDED TO DEVISE A CURE OF YOUR OWN!
IT'S DOUBTFUL, BUT I'LL DO WHAT I CAN!
YOU ARE A MOST UNUSUAL BOY, KING SIMON! IT'S SAD THAT ONES SO YOUNG MUST FACE THE PROBLEM OF DEATH! THE PHILOSOPHERS OF EARTH HAVE SOUGHT A KEY TO THE MYSTERY OF DEATH FOR CENTURIES!
YES, CAPTAIN, IT IS TERRIBLY CONFUSING FOR US! ON THE ONE HAND, WE THINK LIKE ADULTS; ON THE OTHER, WE REALIZE WE ARE STILL CHILDREN... THAT IS WHY WE LURED YOU DOWN HERE AS WE DID!
NOW, CAPTAIN, THIS IS DR. ROY, HEAD OF OUR RESEARCH CENTER! HE WILL AID YOU IN WHATEVER WAY HE CAN!


YOU WILL FIND HERE SOME OF THE MOST HIGHLY ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT IN EXISTENCE! IT IS ALL AT YOUR *DISPOSAL!*
IT'S AMAZING, SCOTTY! INTELLECTUALLY, THESE KIDS ARE DEVELOPED TO AN UNBELIEVABLE DEGREE!
YET EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY THEY ARE STILL CHILDREN!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CAPTAIN, YET, I WONDER HOW MANY EARTH KIDS COULD COPE WITH A SITUATION LIKE THIS ONE?
TRUE, SCOTTY, BUT THINK ABOUT THE CHESSMEN FOR A MOMENT; THEY ARE *TOYS*; A LITTLE MORE ELABORATE PERHAPS BUT THEIR *PURPOSE* IS STILL A GAME! NO MATTER HOW ADVANCED THEY ARE, WE MUSTN'T FORGET WE'RE DEALING WITH *KIDS!*
CAPTAIN, I THINK I MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING! WITH ONLY ONE MORE INGREDIENT, I CAN MAKE A SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SERUM WE NEED!
I'LL TELL DR. ROY! PERHAPS HE'LL KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND IT!

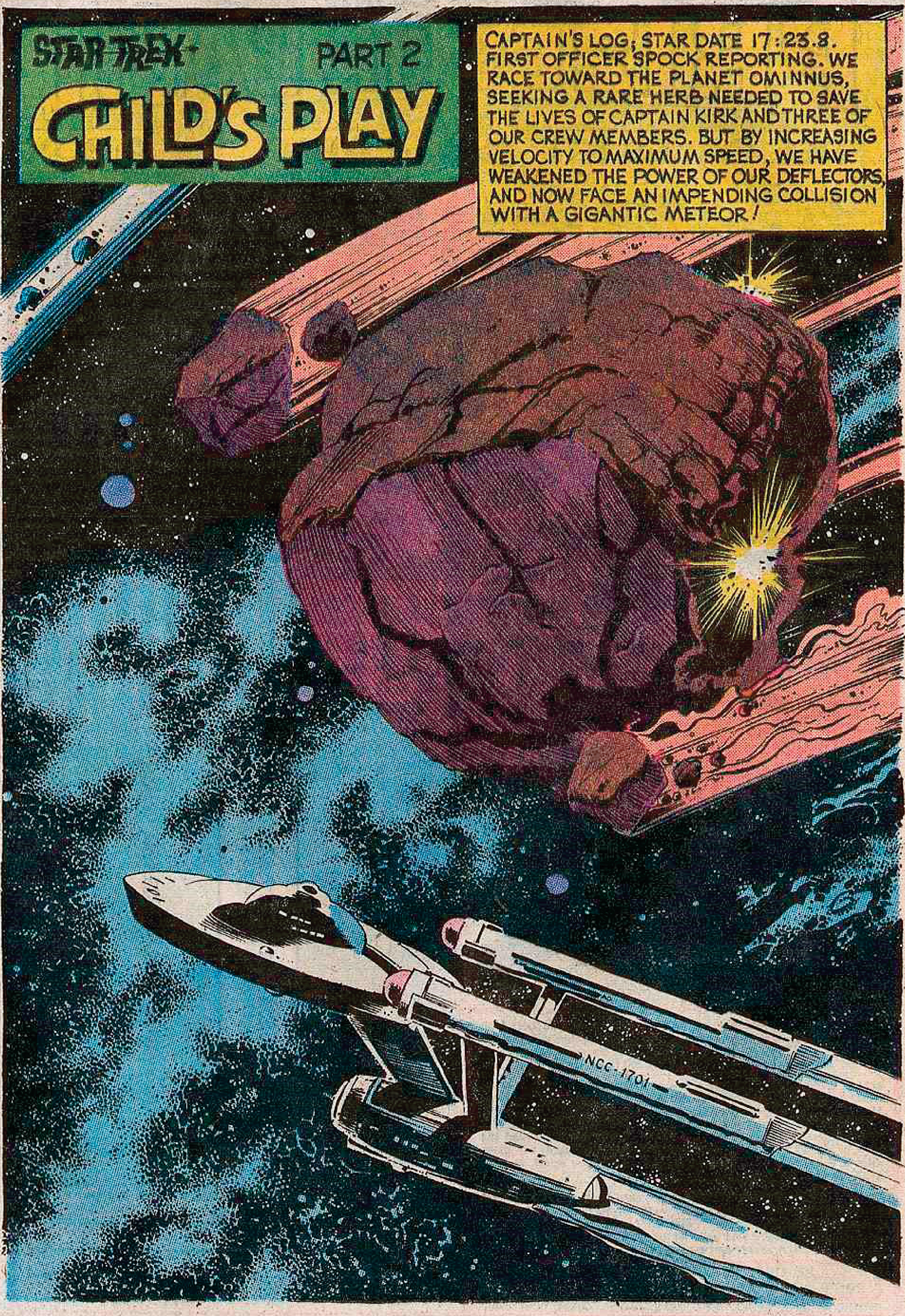

I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN. I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT SUBSTANCE!
AND THAT'S THE BAD NEWS, CHRISTINE!
THEN WE'D BETTER *HOPE* DR. McCOY AND MR. SPOCK RETURN IN TIME!
HOPE! THE ONE THING THAT DRIVES DR. McCOY AND MR. SPOCK TOWARD THE PLANET OMINNUS AGAINST ALMOST *IMPOSSIBLE* ODDS.....
NCC-1701
WHAT DO YOU THINK OUR CHANCES ARE, MR. SPOCK?
NOT THE BEST, DOCTOR! I CALCULATE THAT THE ONLY WAY WE CAN MAKE IT TO OMINNUS AND BACK IN 5 DAYS IS TO INCREASE SPEED TO WARP FACTOR EIGHT!
BUT THAT'S 512 TIMES THE SPEED OF LIGHT! AT THAT SPEED, THE SHIP'S FIELD MECHANISM MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COMPENSATE FOR THE STRAIN THAT'S PUT ON IT!


WE'LL HAVE TO RISK IT, DOCTOR! THE LIVES OF THE CAPTAIN AND THREE CREWMEN ARE AT STAKE!
THUS, AT TOPSPEED THE ENTERPRISE SAILS TOWARD OMINNUS, WHEN SUDDENLY.....
MR. SPOCK! THERE'S A METEOR, ON A DIRECT COLLISION COURSE WITH THE ENTERPRISE!
WHY SO CONCERNED, ENSIGN? YOU KNOW THE SHIP'S DEFLECTORS WILL WARD IT OFF COURSE!
AT SUCH EXTREMELY HIGH SPEED, DOCTOR, THE POWER OF THE DEFLECTORS IS WEAKENED! UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE FAST, WE'LL CRASH IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!
END OF PART 1

STAR TREK

PART 2

CHILD'S PLAY


CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 17:23.8. FIRST OFFICER SPOCK REPORTING. WE RACE TOWARD THE PLANET OMINNUS, SEEKING A RARE HERB NEEDED TO SAVE THE LIVES OF CAPTAIN KIRK AND THREE OF OUR CREW MEMBERS. BUT BY INCREASING VELOCITY TO MAXIMUM SPEED, WE HAVE WEAKENED THE POWER OF OUR DEFLECTORS, AND NOW FACE AN IMPENDING COLLISION WITH A GIGANTIC METEOR!
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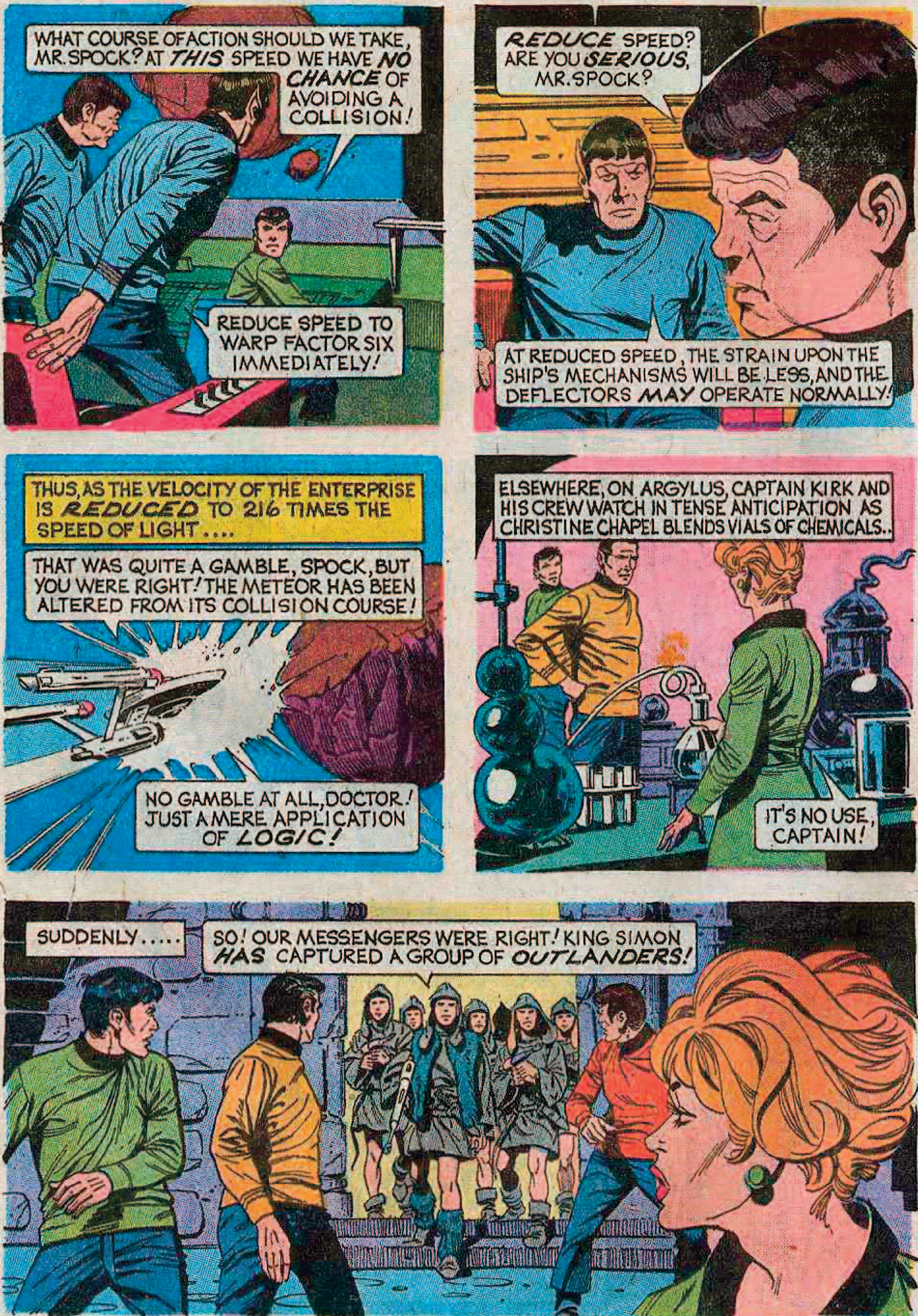
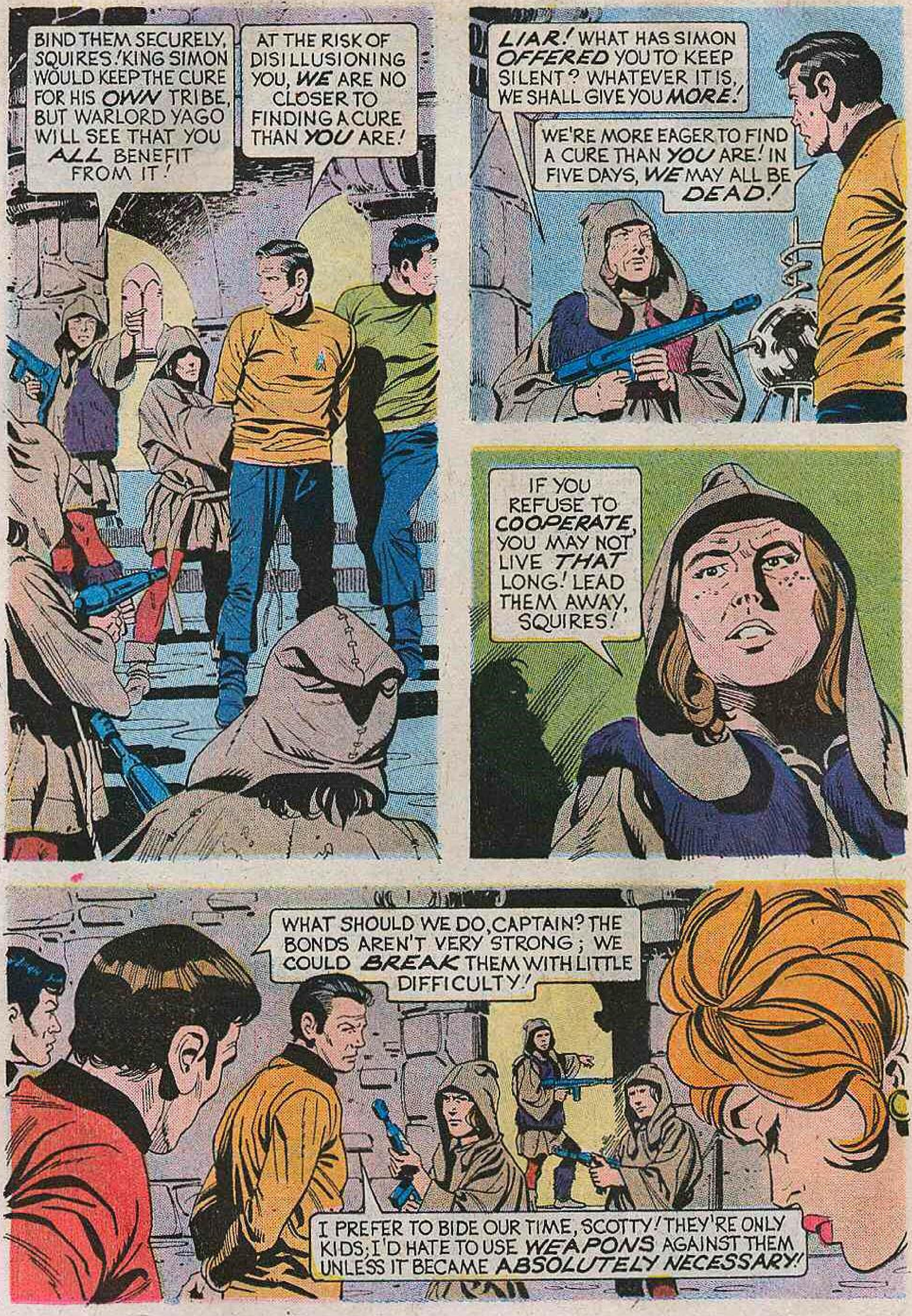
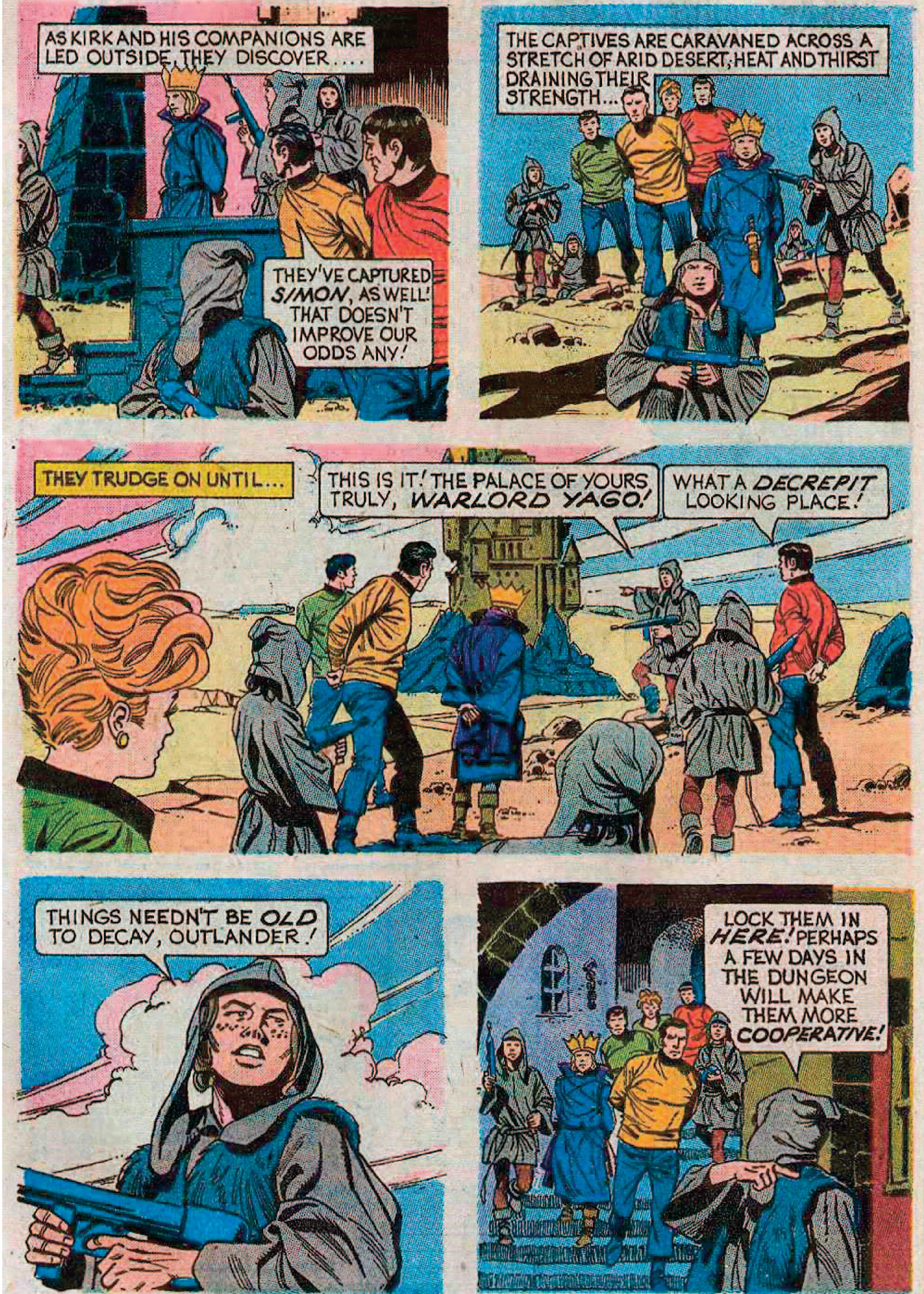
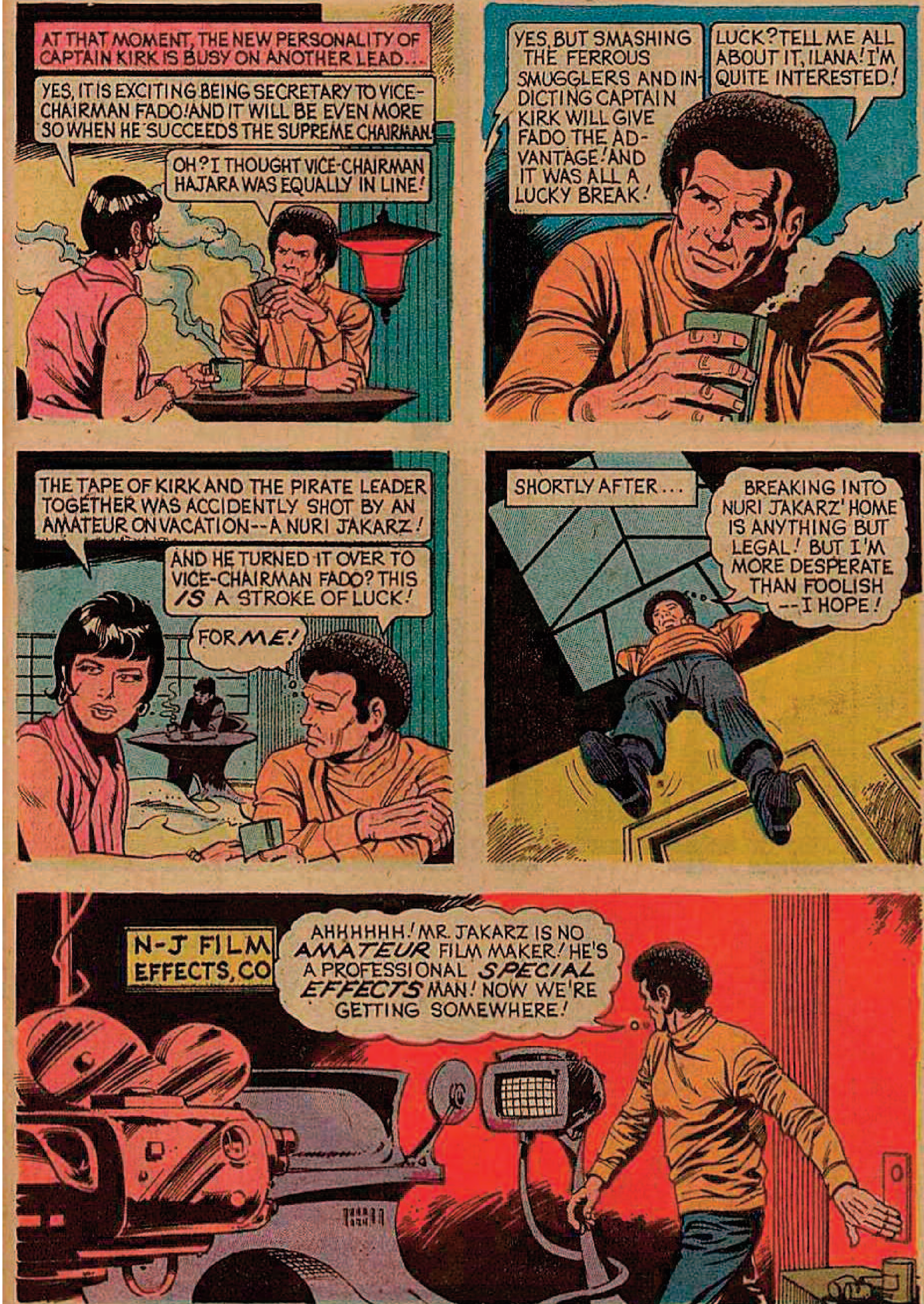
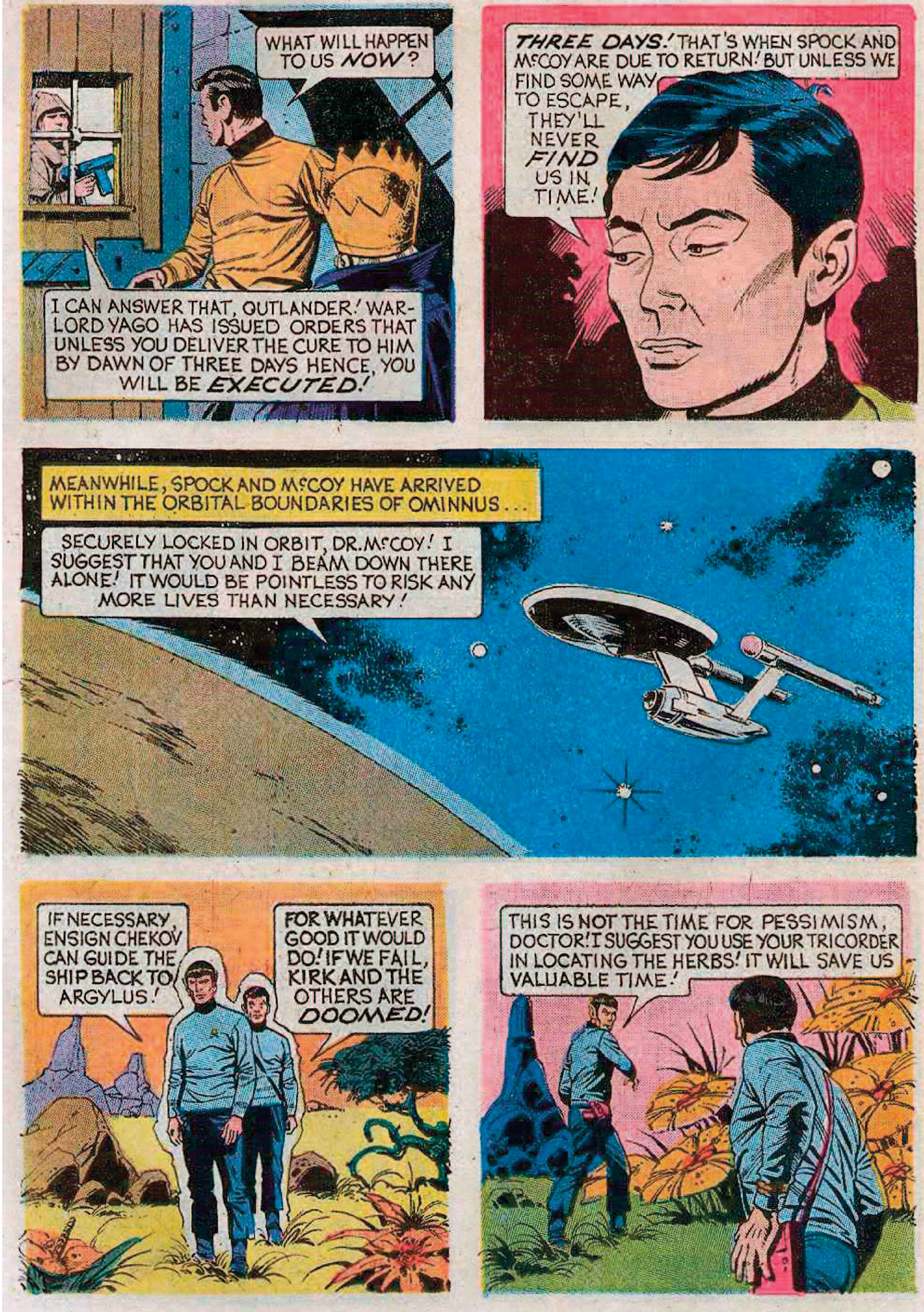
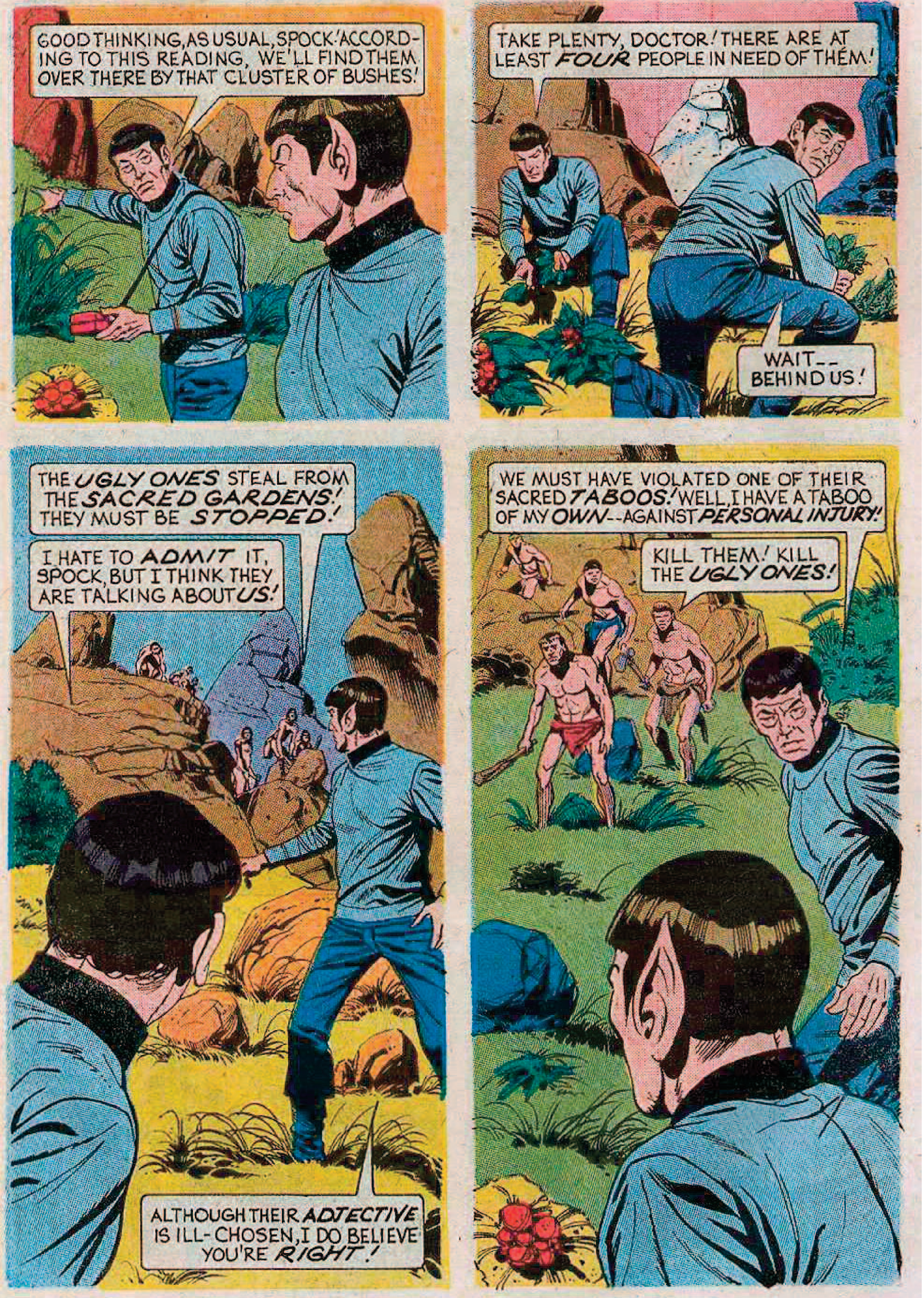

WHAT COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD WE TAKE, MR. SPOCK? AT *THIS* SPEED WE HAVE *NO CHANCE* OF AVOIDING A COLLISION!
REDUCE SPEED TO WARP FACTOR SIX IMMEDIATELY!
REDUCE SPEED? ARE YOU *SERIOUS*, MR. SPOCK?
AT REDUCED SPEED, THE STRAIN UPON THE SHIP'S MECHANISMS WILL BE LESS, AND THE DEFLECTORS *MAY* OPERATE NORMALLY!
THUS, AS THE VELOCITY OF THE ENTERPRISE IS *REDUCED* TO 216 TIMES THE SPEED OF LIGHT....
THAT WAS QUITE A GAMBLE, SPOCK, BUT YOU WERE RIGHT! THE METEOR HAS BEEN ALTERED FROM ITS COLLISION COURSE!
NO GAMBLE AT ALL, DOCTOR! JUST A MERE APPLICATION OF *LOGIC*!
ELSEWHERE, ON ARGYLUS, CAPTAIN KIRK AND HIS CREW WATCH IN TENSE ANTICIPATION AS CHRISTINE CHAPEL BLENDS VIALS OF CHEMICALS..
IT'S NO USE, CAPTAIN!
SUDDENLY.....
SO! OUR MESSENGERS WERE RIGHT! KING SIMON *HAS* CAPTURED A GROUP OF *OUTLANDERS*!

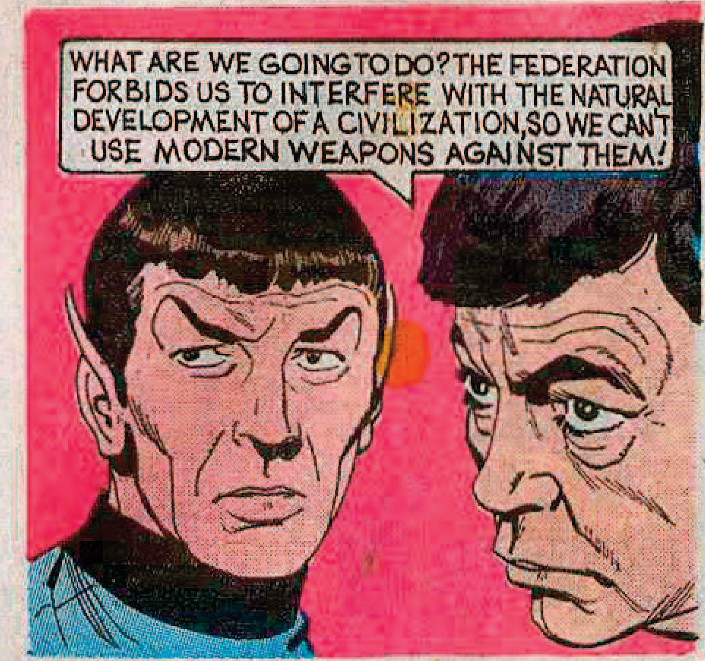

BIND THEM SECURELY, SQUIRES! KING SIMON WOULD KEEP THE CURE FOR HIS *OWN* TRIBE, BUT WARLORD YAGO WILL SEE THAT YOU *ALL* BENEFIT FROM IT!
AT THE RISK OF DISILLUSIONING YOU, *WE* ARE NO CLOSER TO FINDING A CURE THAN *YOU* ARE!
LIAR! WHAT HAS SIMON *OFFERED* YOU TO KEEP SILENT? WHATEVER IT IS, WE SHALL GIVE YOU *MORE!*
WE'RE MORE EAGER TO FIND A CURE THAN *YOU* ARE! IN FIVE DAYS, *WE* MAY ALL BE *DEAD!*
IF YOU REFUSE TO *COOPERATE*, YOU MAY NOT LIVE *THAT* LONG! LEAD THEM AWAY, SQUIRES!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, CAPTAIN? THE BONDS AREN'T VERY STRONG; WE COULD *BREAK* THEM WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY!
I PREFER TO BIDE OUR TIME, SCOTTY! THEY'RE ONLY KIDS; I'D HATE TO USE *WEAPONS* AGAINST THEM UNLESS IT BECAME *ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!*

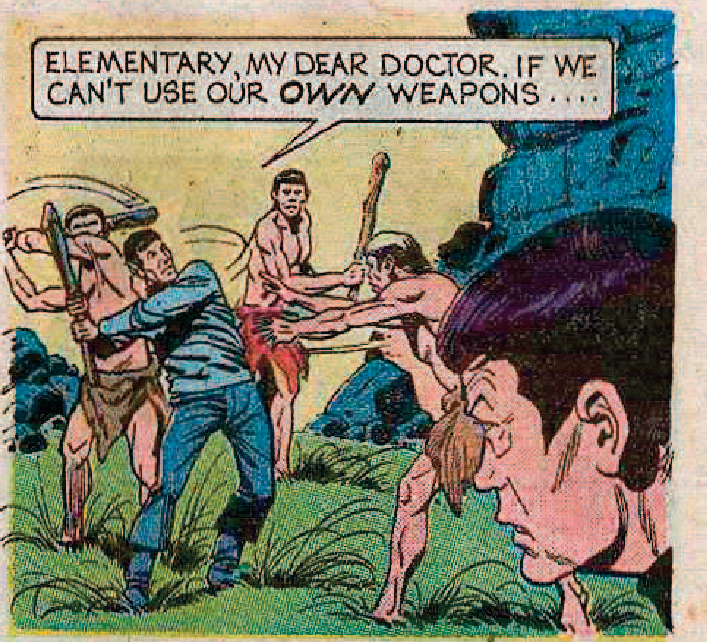

AS KIRK AND HIS COMPANIONS ARE LED OUTSIDE, THEY DISCOVER....
THEY'VE CAPTURED *SIMON*, AS WELL! THAT DOESN'T IMPROVE OUR ODDS ANY!
THE CAPTIVES ARE CARAVANED ACROSS A STRETCH OF ARID DESERT, HEAT AND THIRST DRAINING THEIR STRENGTH...
THEY TRUDGE ON UNTIL...
THIS IS IT! THE PALACE OF YOURS TRULY, *WARLORD YAGO!*
WHAT A *DECREPIT* LOOKING PLACE!
THINGS NEEDN'T BE *OLD* TO DECAY, OUTLANDER!
LOCK THEM IN *HERE!* PERHAPS A FEW DAYS IN THE DUNGEON WILL MAKE THEM MORE *COOPERATIVE!*

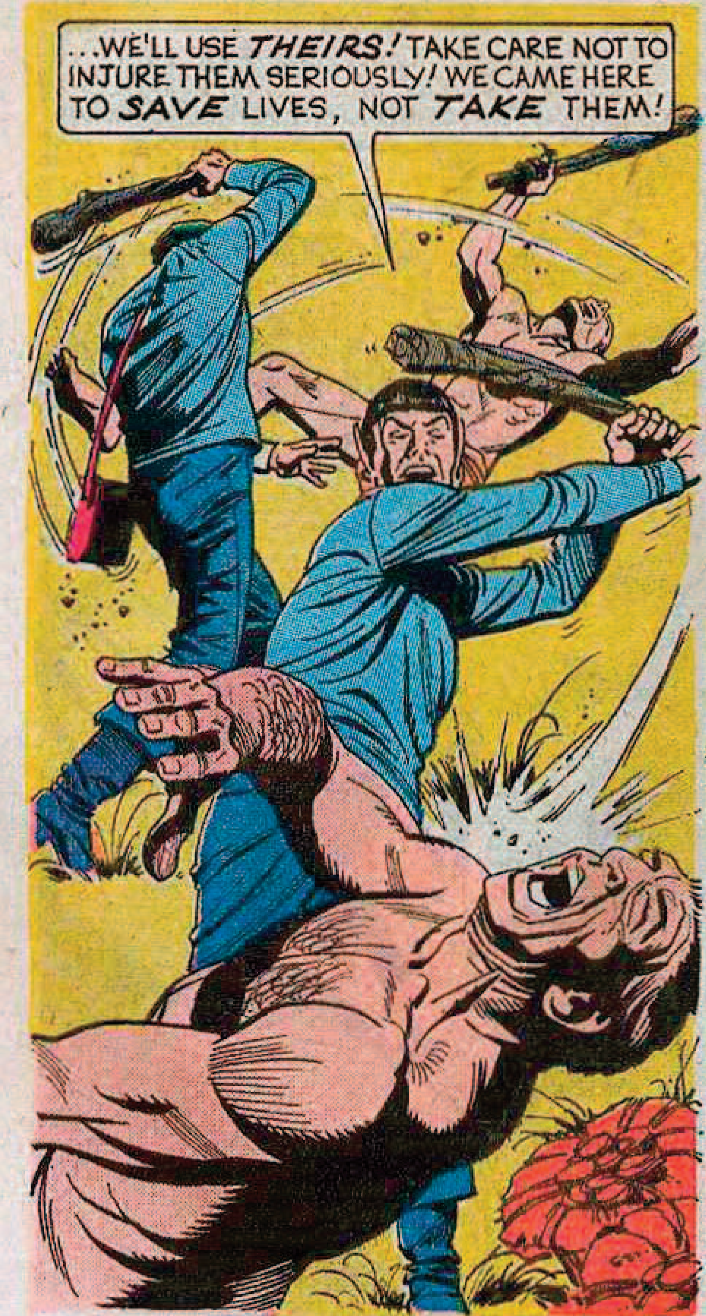

AT THAT MOMENT, THE NEW PERSONALITY OF CAPTAIN KIRK IS BUSY ON ANOTHER LEAD...
YES, IT IS EXCITING BEING SECRETARY TO VICE-CHAIRMAN FADO! AND IT WILL BE EVEN MORE SO WHEN HE SUCCEEDS THE SUPREME CHAIRMAN!
OH? I THOUGHT VICE-CHAIRMAN HAJARA WAS EQUALLY IN LINE!
YES, BUT SMASHING THE FERROUS SMUGGLERS AND INDICTING CAPTAIN KIRK WILL GIVE FADO THE ADVANTAGE! AND IT WAS ALL A LUCKY BREAK!
LUCK? TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT, ILANA! I'M QUITE INTERESTED!
THE TAPE OF KIRK AND THE PIRATE LEADER TOGETHER WAS ACCIDENTLY SHOT BY AN AMATEUR ON VACATION--A NURI JAKARZ!
AND HE TURNED IT OVER TO VICE-CHAIRMAN FADO? THIS *IS* A STROKE OF LUCK!
FOR *ME*!
SHORTLY AFTER...
BREAKING INTO NURI JAKARZ' HOME IS ANYTHING BUT LEGAL! BUT I'M MORE DESPERATE THAN FOOLISH --I HOPE!
N-J FILM EFFECTS, CO
AHHHHHH! MR. JAKARZ IS NO *AMATEUR* FILM MAKER! HE'S A PROFESSIONAL *SPECIAL EFFECTS* MAN! NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE!

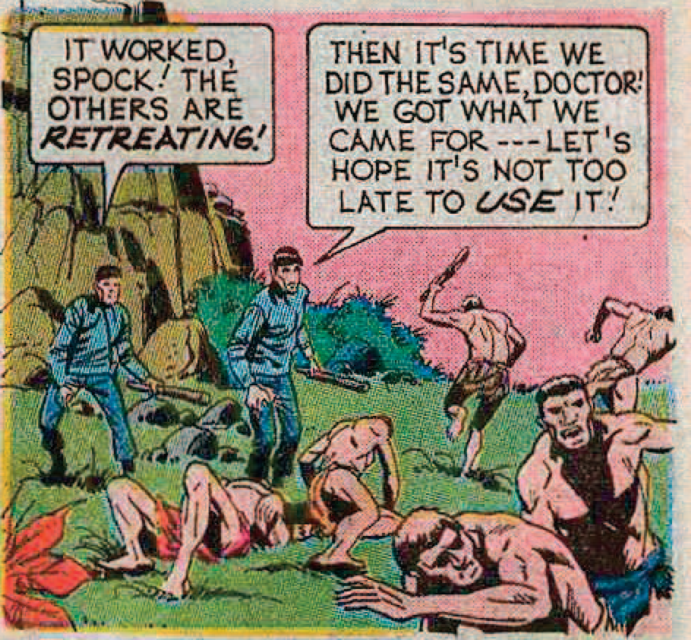

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US *NOW*?
I CAN ANSWER THAT, OUTLANDER! WARLORD YAGO HAS ISSUED ORDERS THAT UNLESS YOU DELIVER THE CURE TO HIM BY DAWN OF THREE DAYS HENCE, YOU WILL BE *EXECUTED!*
THREE DAYS! THAT'S WHEN SPOCK AND McCOY ARE DUE TO RETURN! BUT UNLESS WE FIND SOME WAY TO ESCAPE, THEY'LL NEVER *FIND* US IN TIME!
MEANWHILE, SPOCK AND McCOY HAVE ARRIVED WITHIN THE ORBITAL BOUNDARIES OF OMINNUS...
SECURELY LOCKED IN ORBIT, DR. McCOY! I SUGGEST THAT YOU AND I BEAM DOWN THERE ALONE! IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO RISK ANY MORE LIVES THAN NECESSARY!
IF NECESSARY, ENSIGN CHEKOV CAN GUIDE THE SHIP BACK TO ARGYLUS!
FOR WHATEVER GOOD IT WOULD DO! IF WE FAIL, KIRK AND THE OTHERS ARE *DOOMED!*
THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR PESSIMISM, DOCTOR! I SUGGEST YOU USE YOUR TRICORDER IN LOCATING THE HERBS! IT WILL SAVE US VALUABLE TIME!

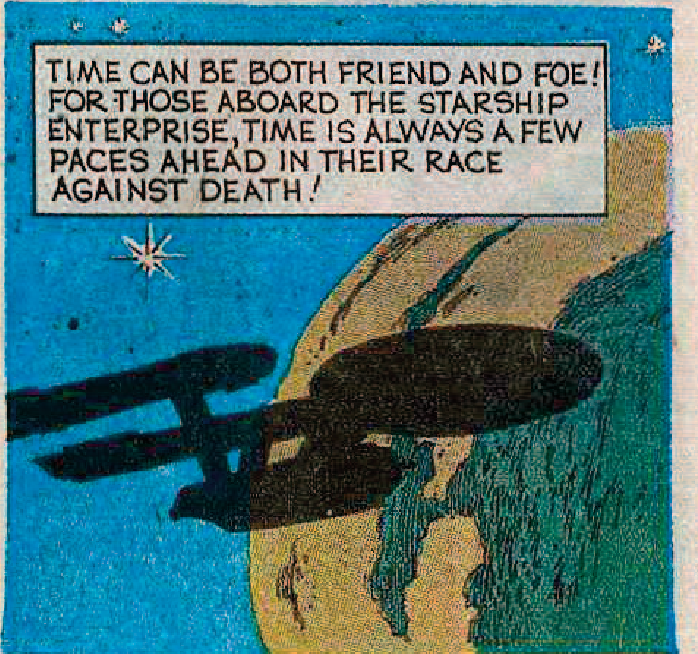

GOOD THINKING, AS USUAL, SPOCK! ACCORDING TO THIS READING, WE'LL FIND THEM OVER THERE BY THAT CLUSTER OF BUSHES!
TAKE PLENTY, DOCTOR! THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE IN NEED OF THEM!
WAIT-- BEHIND US!
THE UGLY ONES STEAL FROM THE SACRED GARDENS! THEY MUST BE STOPPED!
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, SPOCK, BUT I THINK THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT US!
ALTHOUGH THEIR ADJECTIVE IS ILL-CHOSEN, I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT!
WE MUST HAVE VIOLATED ONE OF THEIR SACRED TABOOS! WELL, I HAVE A TABOO OF MY OWN--AGAINST PERSONAL INJURY!
KILL THEM! KILL THE UGLY ONES!

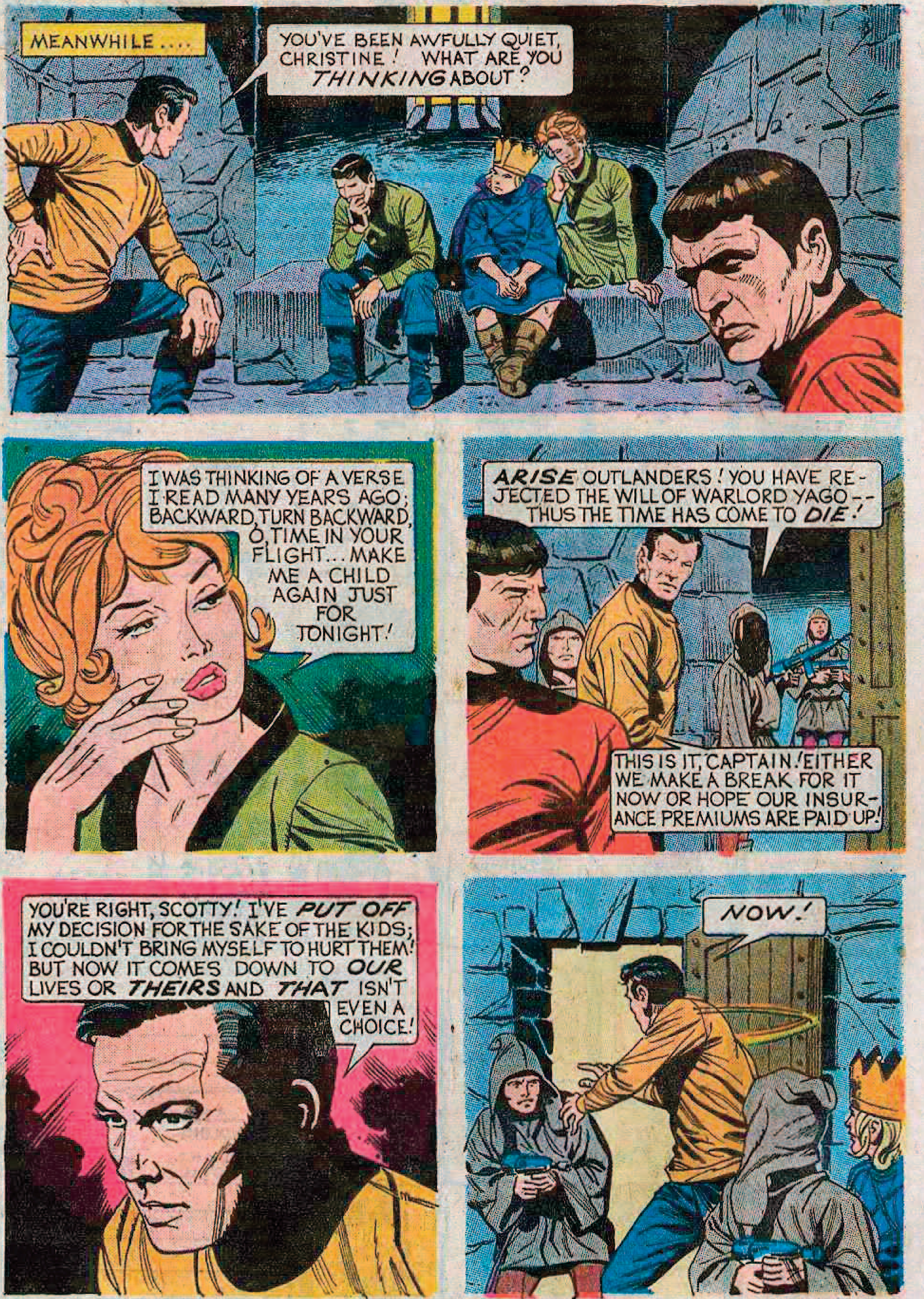

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? THE FEDERATION FORBIDS US TO INTERFERE WITH THE NATURAL DEVELOPMENT OF A CIVILIZATION, SO WE CAN'T USE MODERN WEAPONS AGAINST THEM!

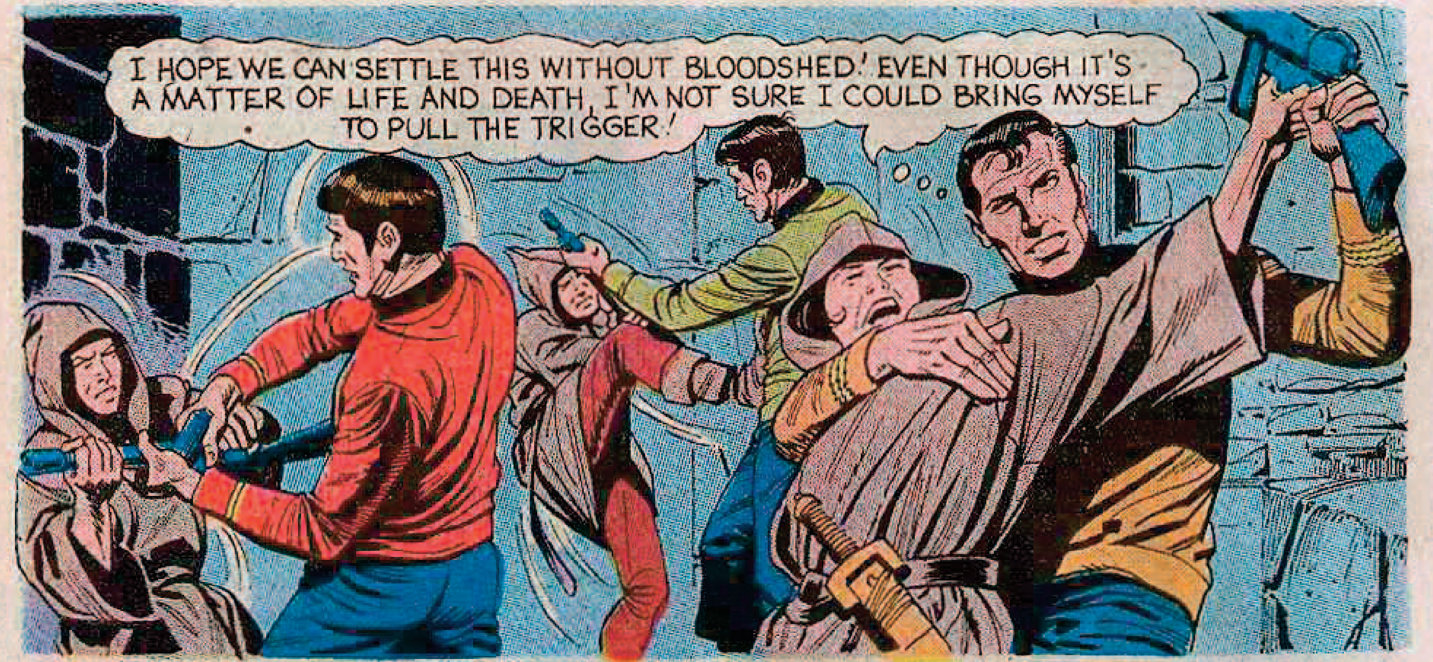

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR DOCTOR. IF WE CAN'T USE OUR *OWN* WEAPONS....

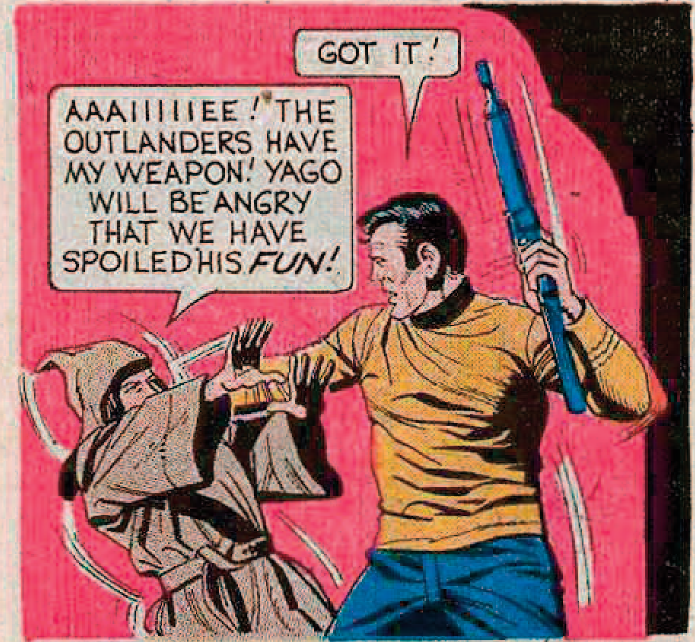

...WE'LL USE *THEIRS!* TAKE CARE NOT TO INJURE THEM SERIOUSLY! WE CAME HERE TO *SAVE* LIVES, NOT *TAKE* THEM!

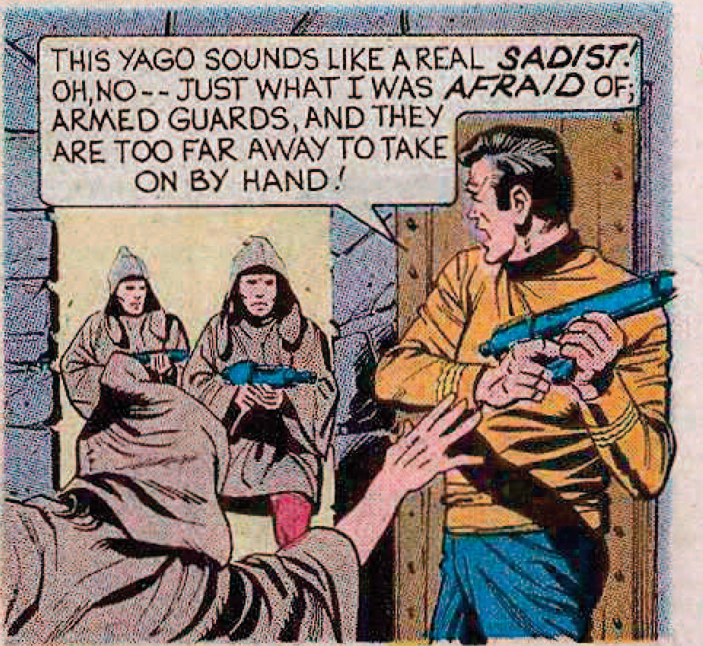

IT WORKED, SPOCK! THE OTHERS ARE *RETREATING!*
THEN IT'S TIME WE DID THE SAME, DOCTOR! WE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR --- LET'S HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO *USE* IT!

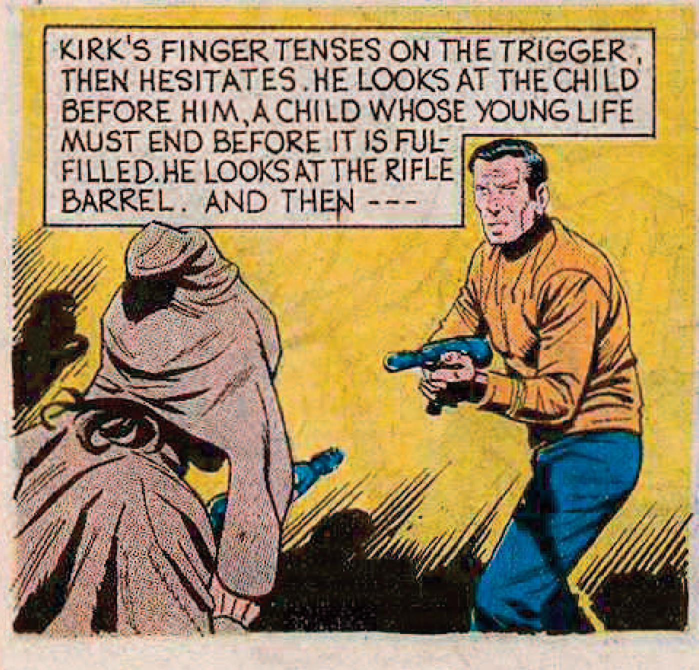

TIME CAN BE BOTH FRIEND AND FOE! FOR THOSE ABOARD THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE, TIME IS ALWAYS A FEW PACES AHEAD IN THEIR RACE AGAINST DEATH!

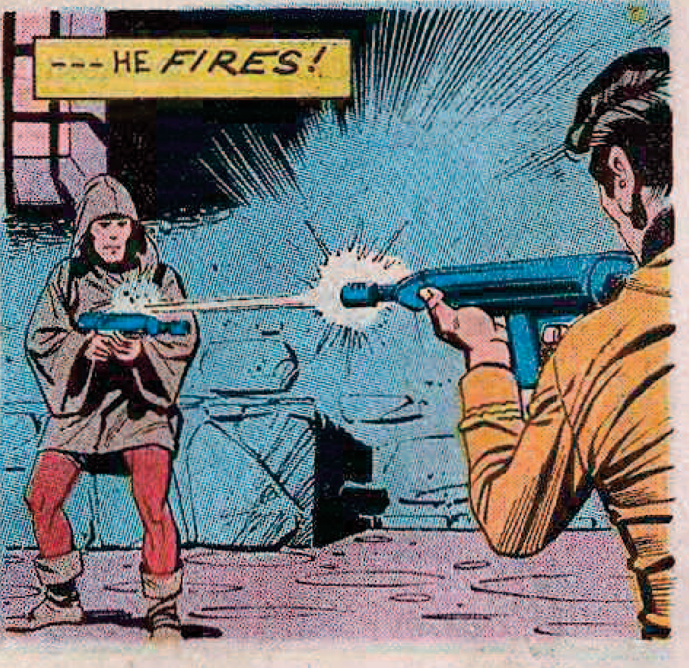

MEANWHILE ....
YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY QUIET, CHRISTINE! WHAT ARE YOU *THINKING* ABOUT?
I WAS THINKING OF A VERSE I READ MANY YEARS AGO; BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, O, TIME IN YOUR FLIGHT... MAKE ME A CHILD AGAIN JUST FOR TONIGHT!
ARISE OUTLANDERS! YOU HAVE REJECTED THE WILL OF WARLORD YAGO -- THUS THE TIME HAS COME TO *DIE*!
THIS IS IT, CAPTAIN! EITHER WE MAKE A BREAK FOR IT NOW OR HOPE OUR INSURANCE PREMIUMS ARE PAID UP!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SCOTTY! I'VE *PUT OFF* MY DECISION FOR THE SAKE OF THE KIDS; I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO HURT THEM! BUT NOW IT COMES DOWN TO *OUR* LIVES OR *THEIRS* AND *THAT* ISN'T EVEN A CHOICE!
NOW!

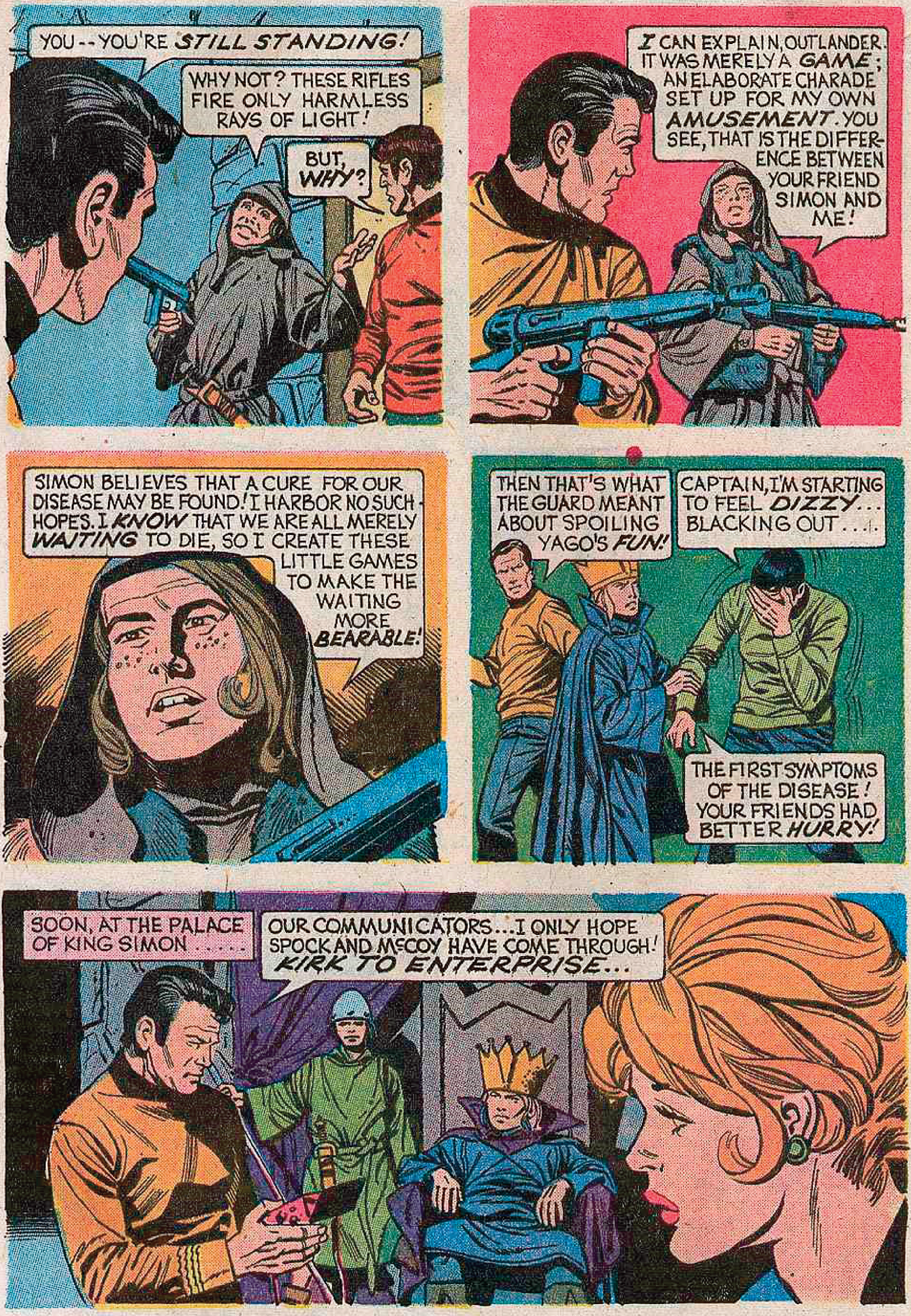

I HOPE WE CAN SETTLE THIS WITHOUT BLOODSHED! EVEN THOUGH IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, I'M NOT SURE I COULD BRING MYSELF TO PULL THE TRIGGER!

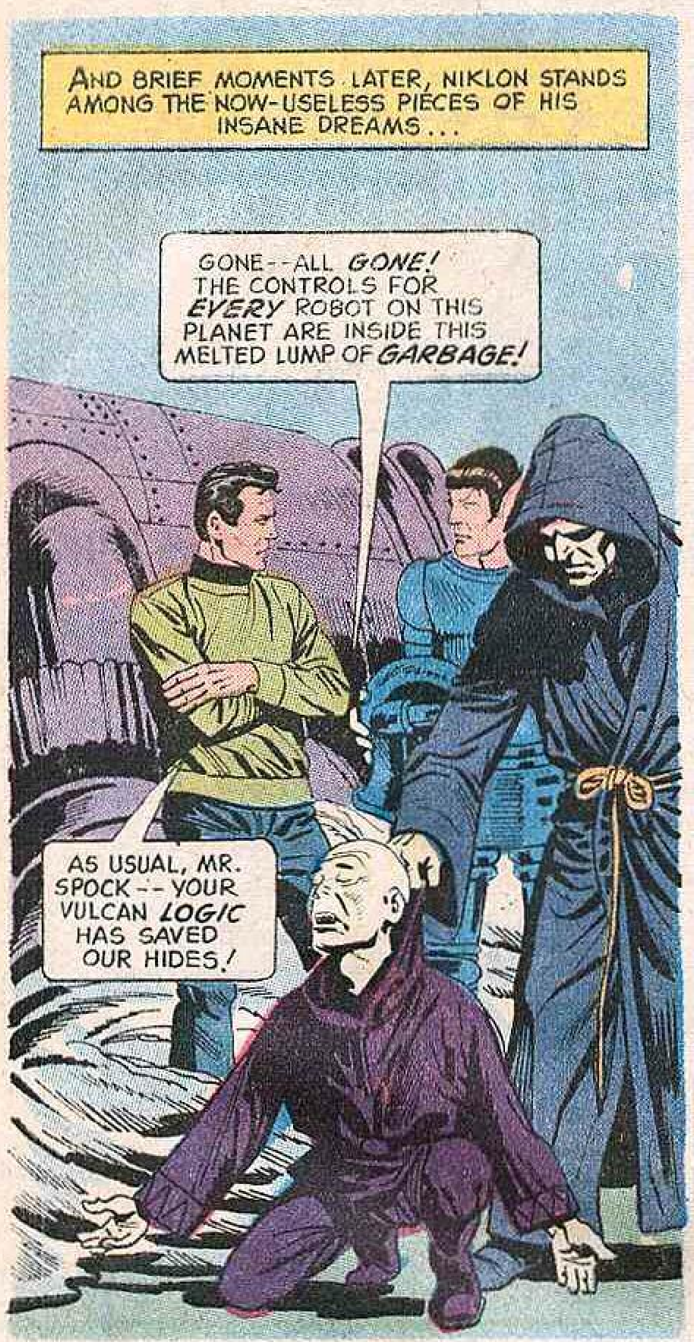

GOT IT!
AAAIIIIIEE! THE OUTLANDERS HAVE MY WEAPON! YAGO WILL BE ANGRY THAT WE HAVE SPOILED HIS *FUN*!

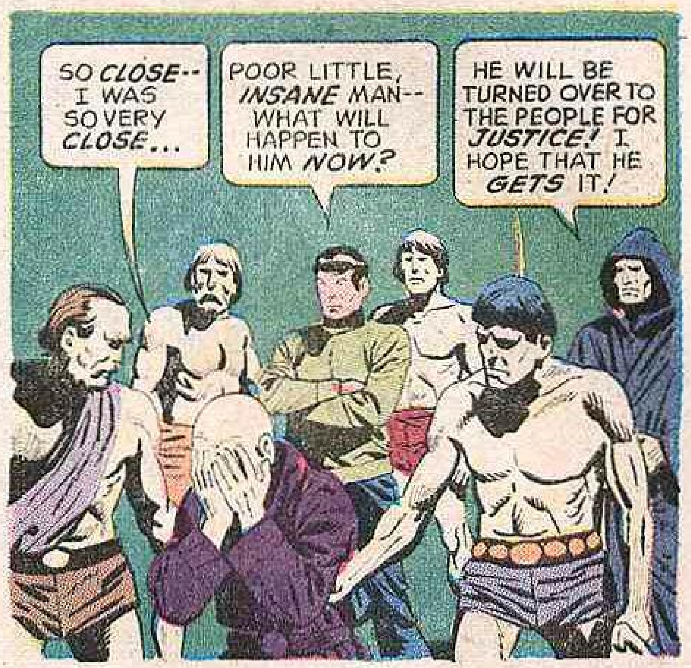

THIS YAGO SOUNDS LIKE A REAL *SADIST*! OH, NO-- JUST WHAT I WAS *AFRAID* OF; ARMED GUARDS, AND THEY ARE TOO FAR AWAY TO TAKE ON BY HAND!

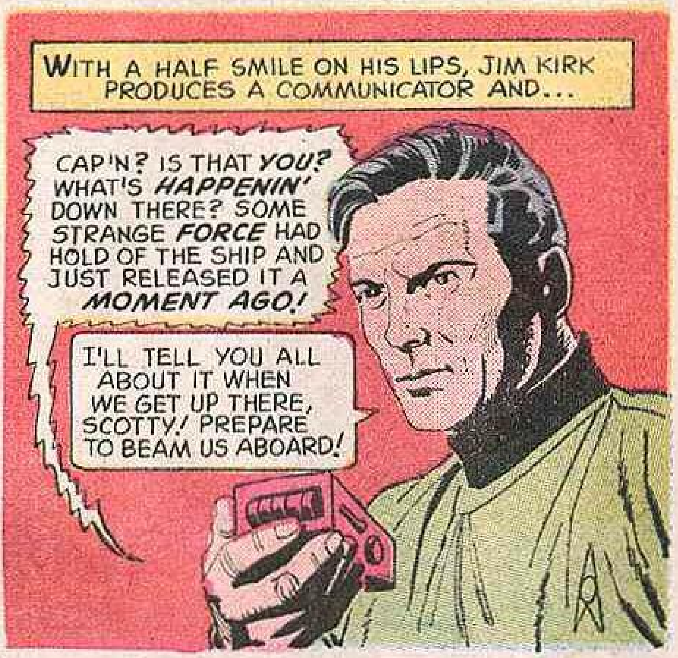

KIRK'S FINGER TENSES ON THE TRIGGER, THEN HESITATES. HE LOOKS AT THE CHILD BEFORE HIM, A CHILD WHOSE YOUNG LIFE MUST END BEFORE IT IS FULFILLED. HE LOOKS AT THE RIFLE BARREL. AND THEN ---

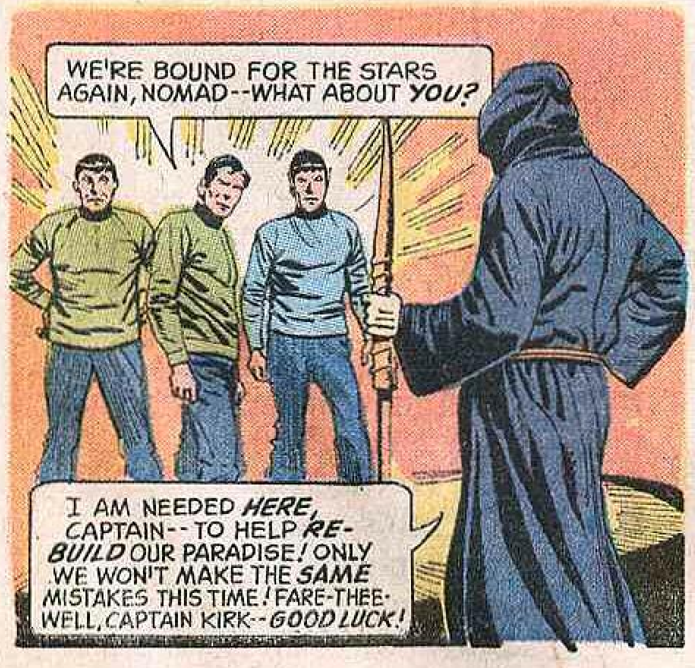

--- HE *FIRES*!

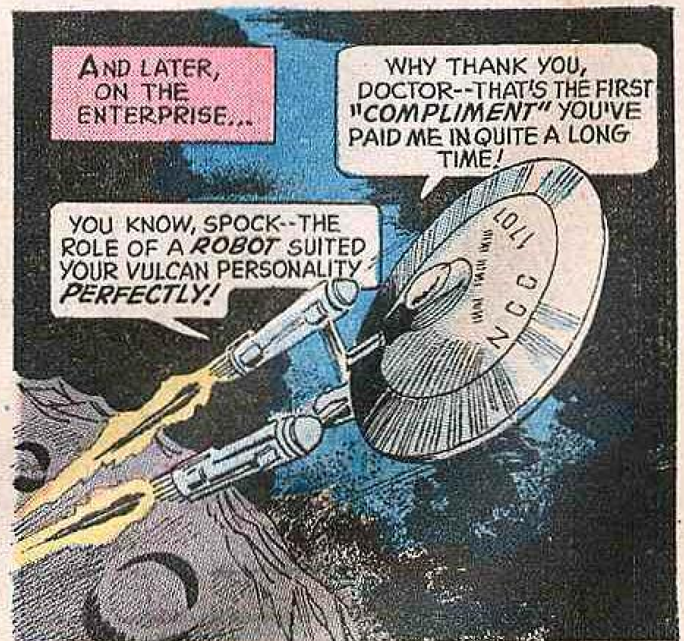

YOU -- YOU'RE *STILL STANDING!*
WHY NOT? THESE RIFLES FIRE ONLY HARMLESS RAYS OF LIGHT!
BUT, *WHY?*
I CAN EXPLAIN, OUTLANDER. IT WAS MERELY A *GAME*; AN ELABORATE CHARADE SET UP FOR MY OWN *AMUSEMENT*. YOU SEE, THAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR FRIEND SIMON AND ME!
SIMON BELIEVES THAT A CURE FOR OUR DISEASE MAY BE FOUND! I HARBOR NO SUCH HOPES. I *KNOW* THAT WE ARE ALL MERELY *WAITING* TO DIE, SO I CREATE THESE LITTLE GAMES TO MAKE THE WAITING MORE *BEARABLE!*
THEN THAT'S WHAT THE GUARD MEANT ABOUT SPOILING YAGO'S *FUN!*
CAPTAIN, I'M STARTING TO FEEL *DIZZY*... BLACKING OUT....
THE FIRST SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE! YOUR FRIENDS HAD BETTER *HURRY!*
SOON, AT THE PALACE OF KING SIMON.....
OUR COMMUNICATORS... I ONLY HOPE SPOCK AND McCOY HAVE COME THROUGH! *KIRK TO ENTERPRISE...*


AND BRIEF MOMENTS LATER, NIKLON STANDS AMONG THE NOW-USELESS PIECES OF HIS INSANE DREAMS...
GONE--ALL *GONE!* THE CONTROLS FOR *EVERY* ROBOT ON THIS PLANET ARE INSIDE THIS MELTED LUMP OF *GARBAGE!*
AS USUAL, MR. SPOCK--YOUR VULCAN *LOGIC* HAS SAVED OUR HIDES!


SO *CLOSE*--I WAS SO VERY *CLOSE...*
POOR LITTLE, *INSANE* MAN--WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM *NOW?*
HE WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE PEOPLE FOR *JUSTICE!* I HOPE THAT HE *GETS* IT!


WITH A HALF SMILE ON HIS LIPS, JIM KIRK PRODUCES A COMMUNICATOR AND...
CAP'N? IS THAT *YOU?* WHAT'S *HAPPENIN'* DOWN THERE? SOME STRANGE *FORCE* HAD HOLD OF THE SHIP AND JUST RELEASED IT A *MOMENT AGO!*
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT WHEN WE GET UP THERE, SCOTTY! PREPARE TO BEAM US ABOARD!


WE'RE BOUND FOR THE STARS AGAIN, NOMAD--WHAT ABOUT *YOU?*
I AM NEEDED *HERE,* CAPTAIN--TO HELP *REBUILD* OUR PARADISE! ONLY WE WON'T MAKE THE *SAME* MISTAKES THIS TIME! FARE-THEE-WELL, CAPTAIN KIRK--*GOOD LUCK!*


AND LATER, ON THE ENTERPRISE...
WHY THANK YOU, DOCTOR--THAT'S THE FIRST *"COMPLIMENT"* YOU'VE PAID ME IN QUITE A LONG TIME!
YOU KNOW, SPOCK--THE ROLE OF A *ROBOT* SUITED YOUR VULCAN PERSONALITY *PERFECTLY!*
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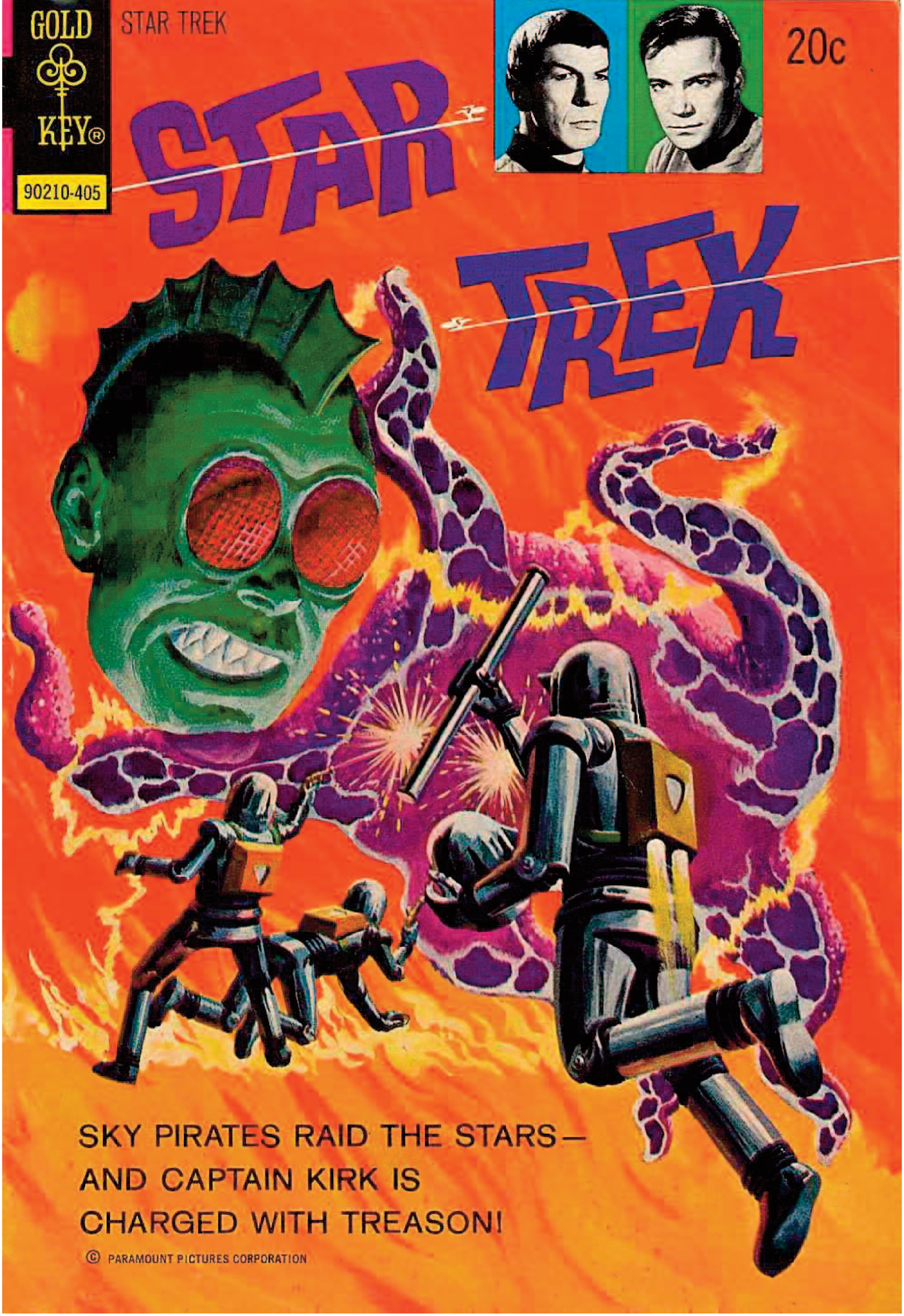
GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
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STAR TREK
SKY PIRATES RAID THE STARS—
AND CAPTAIN KIRK IS
CHARGED WITH TREASON!
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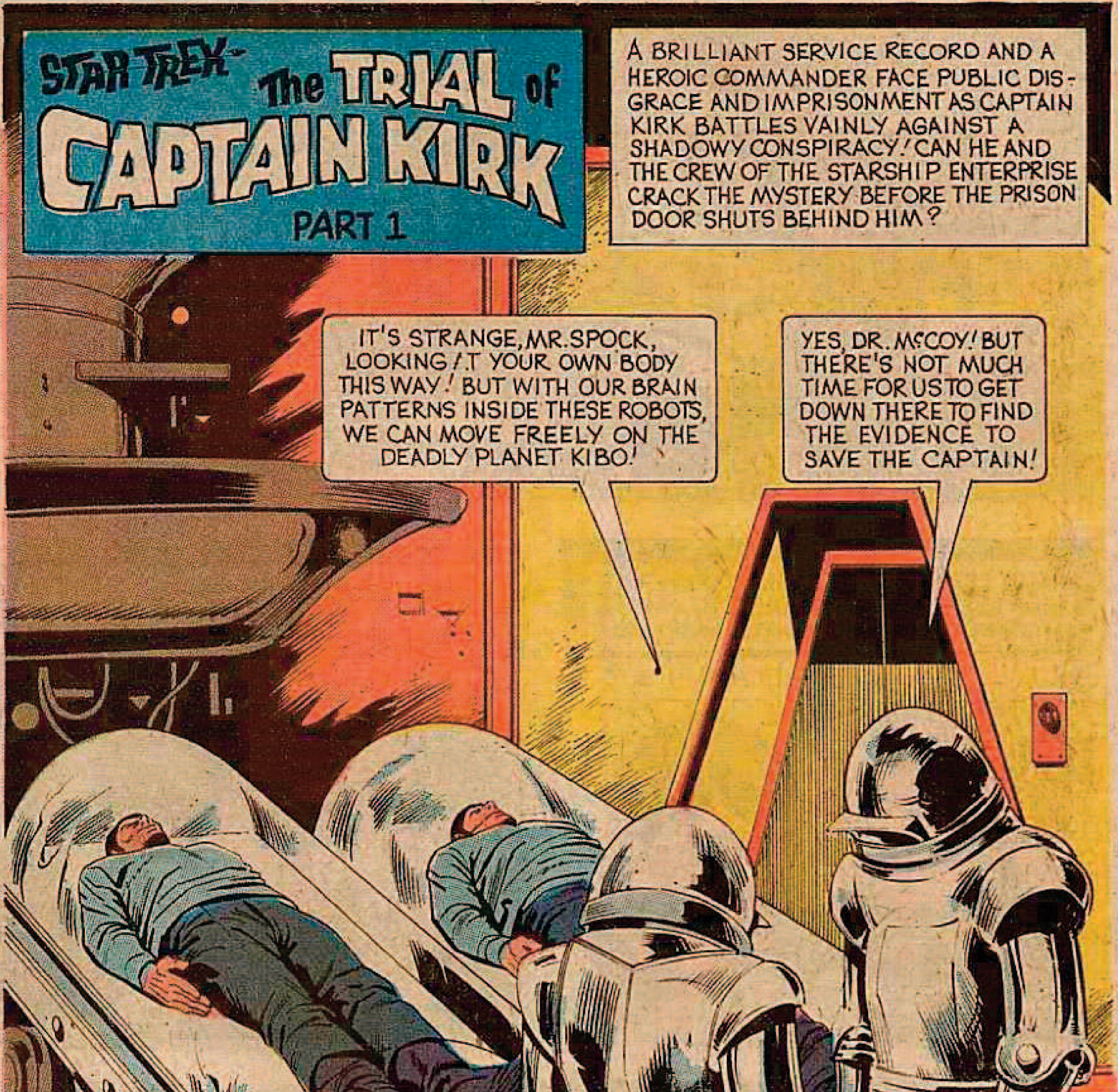
STAR TREK
The TRIAL of CAPTAIN KIRK
PART 1
A BRILLIANT SERVICE RECORD AND A HEROIC COMMANDER FACE PUBLIC DISGRACE AND IMPRISONMENT AS CAPTAIN KIRK BATTLES VAINLY AGAINST A SHADOWY CONSPIRACY! CAN HE AND THE CREW OF THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE CRACK THE MYSTERY BEFORE THE PRISON DOOR SHUTS BEHIND HIM?
IT'S STRANGE, MR. SPOCK, LOOKING AT YOUR OWN BODY THIS WAY! BUT WITH OUR BRAIN PATTERNS INSIDE THESE ROBOTS, WE CAN MOVE FREELY ON THE DEADLY PLANET KIBO!
YES, DR. McCOY! BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME FOR US TO GET DOWN THERE TO FIND THE EVIDENCE TO SAVE THE CAPTAIN!
90210-405
STAR TREK #24-743

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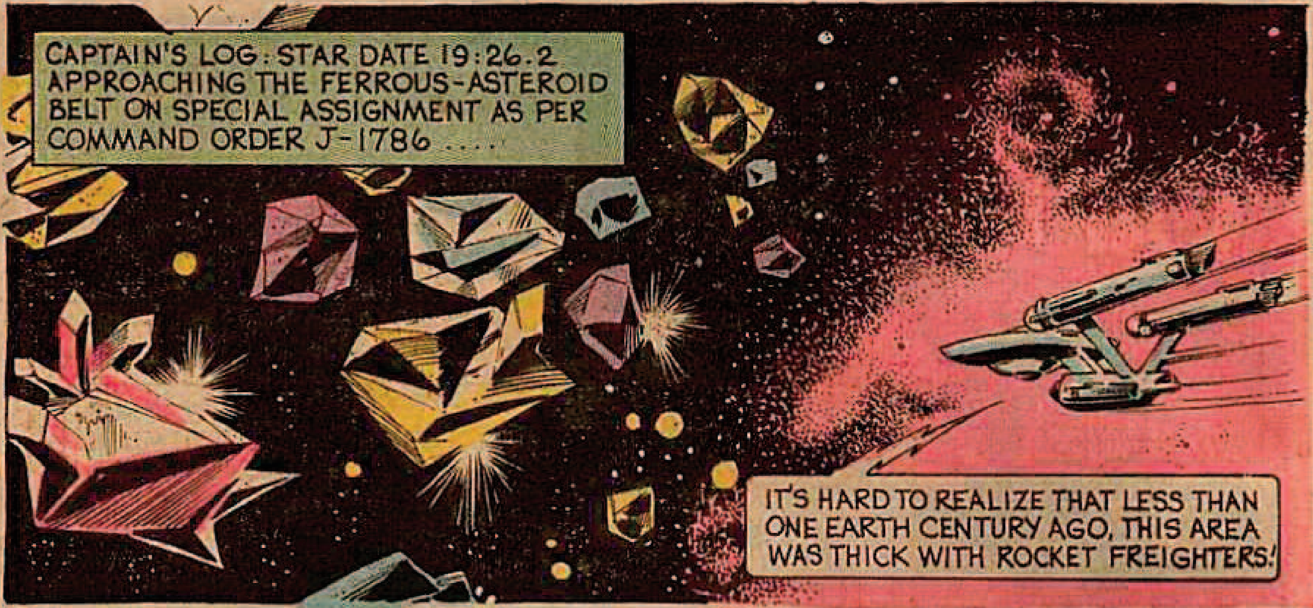
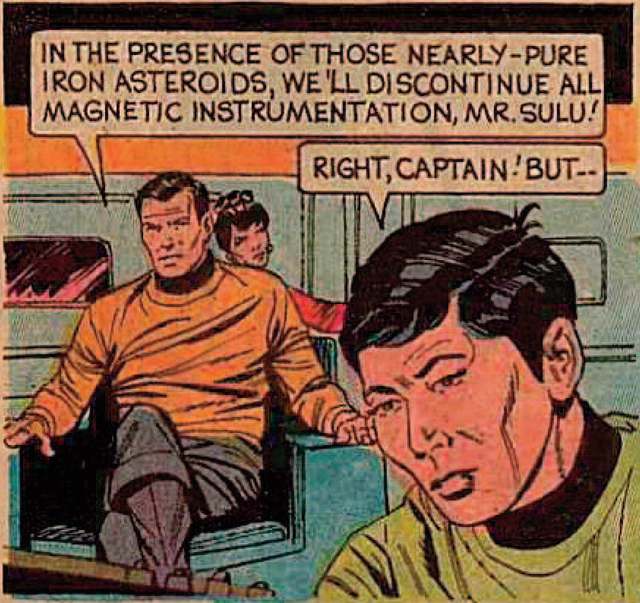
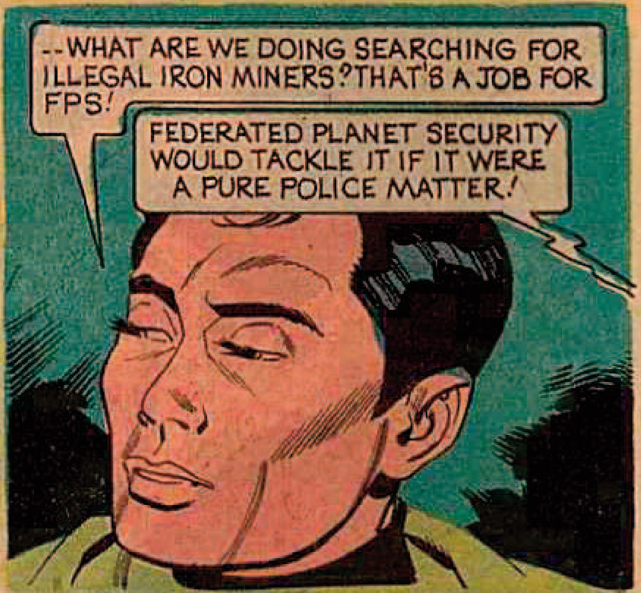
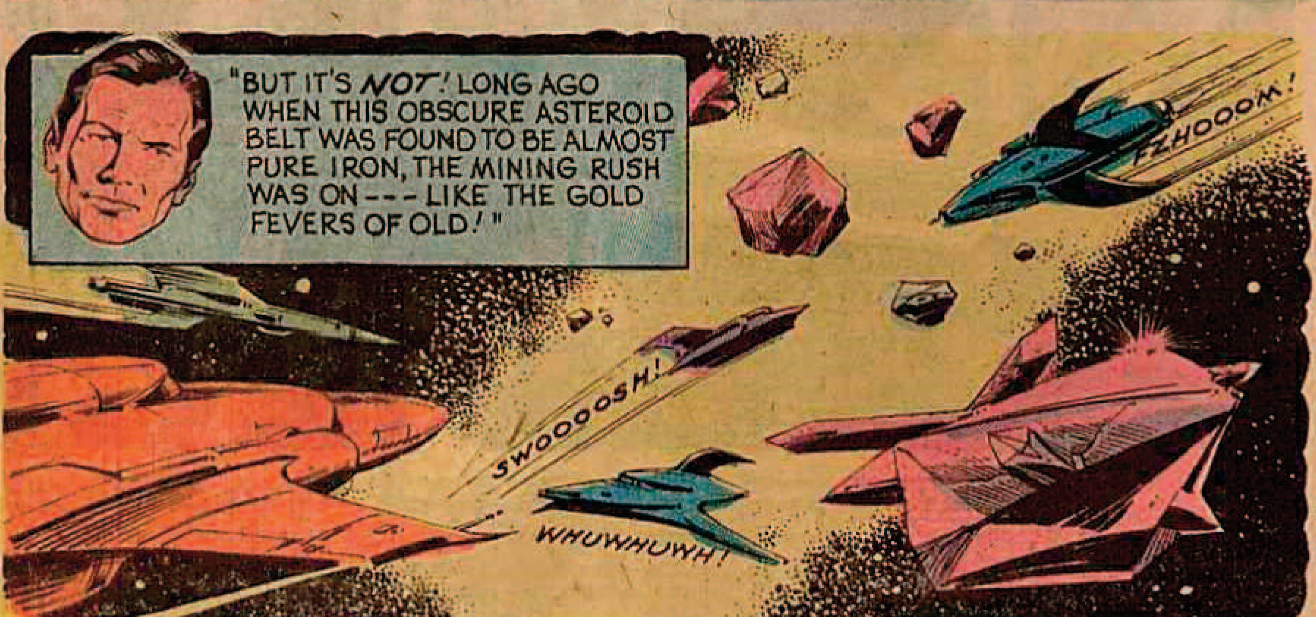
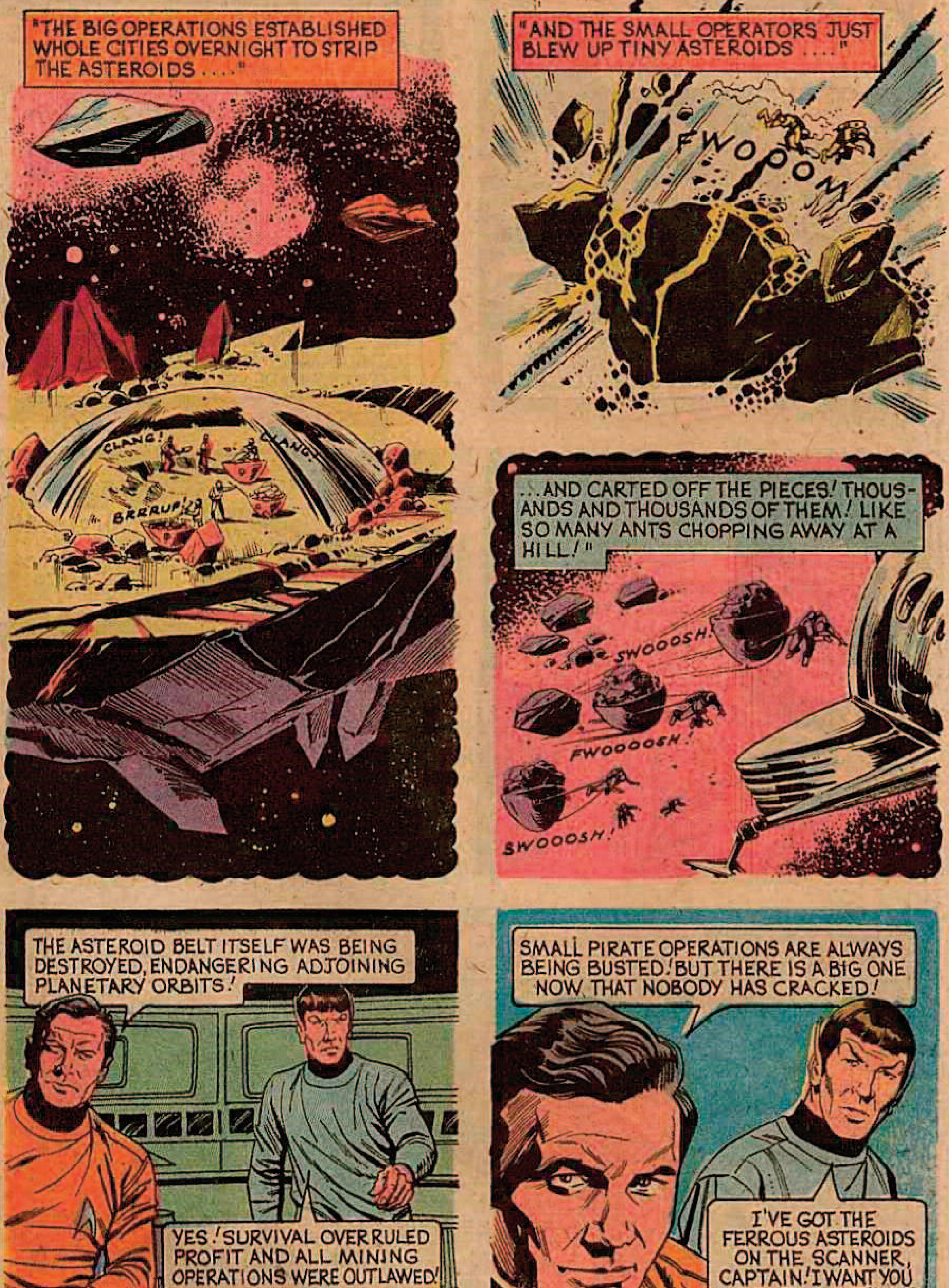
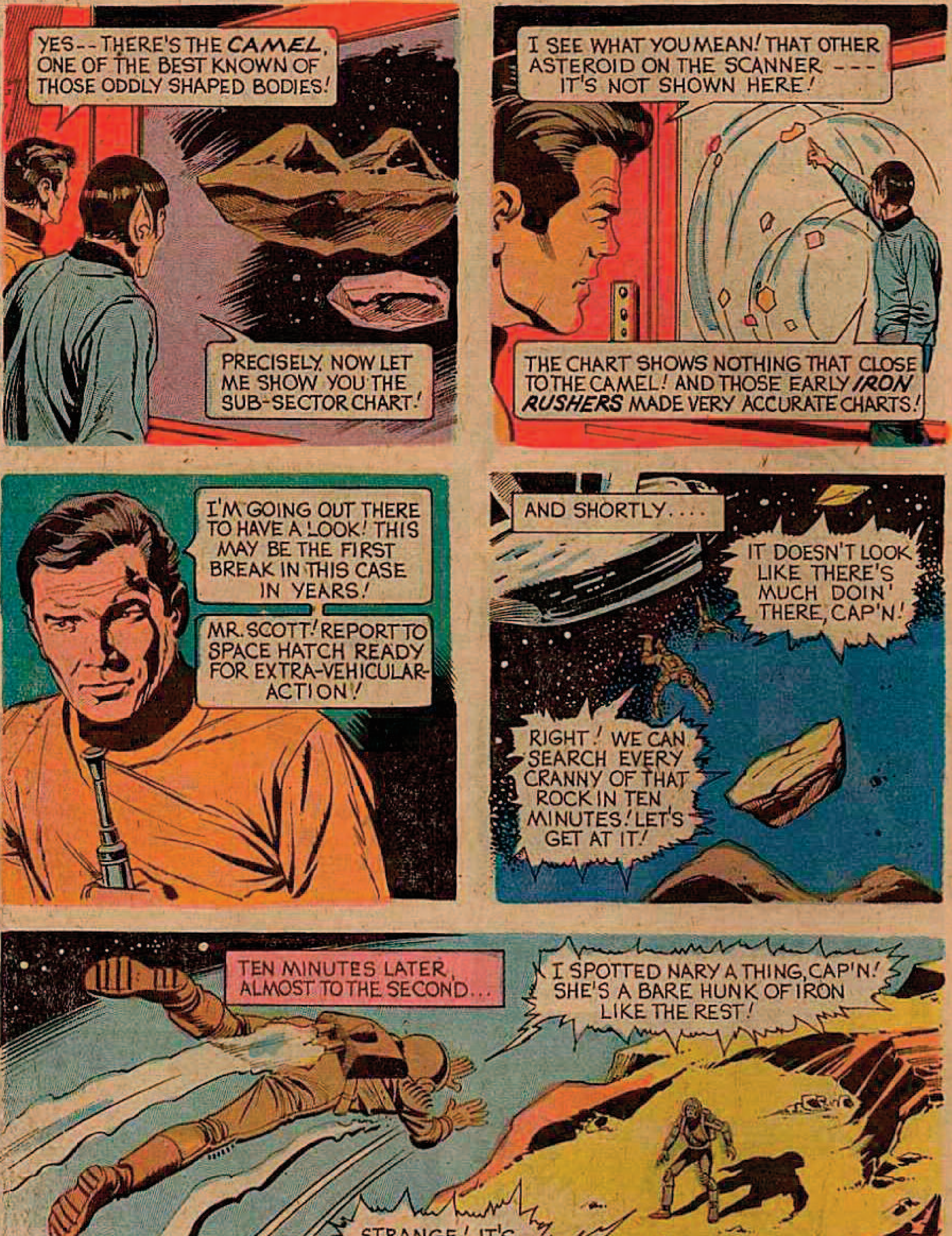

CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 19:26.2 APPROACHING THE FERROUS-ASTEROID BELT ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT AS PER COMMAND ORDER J-1786 ....
IT'S HARD TO REALIZE THAT LESS THAN ONE EARTH CENTURY AGO, THIS AREA WAS THICK WITH ROCKET FREIGHTERS!

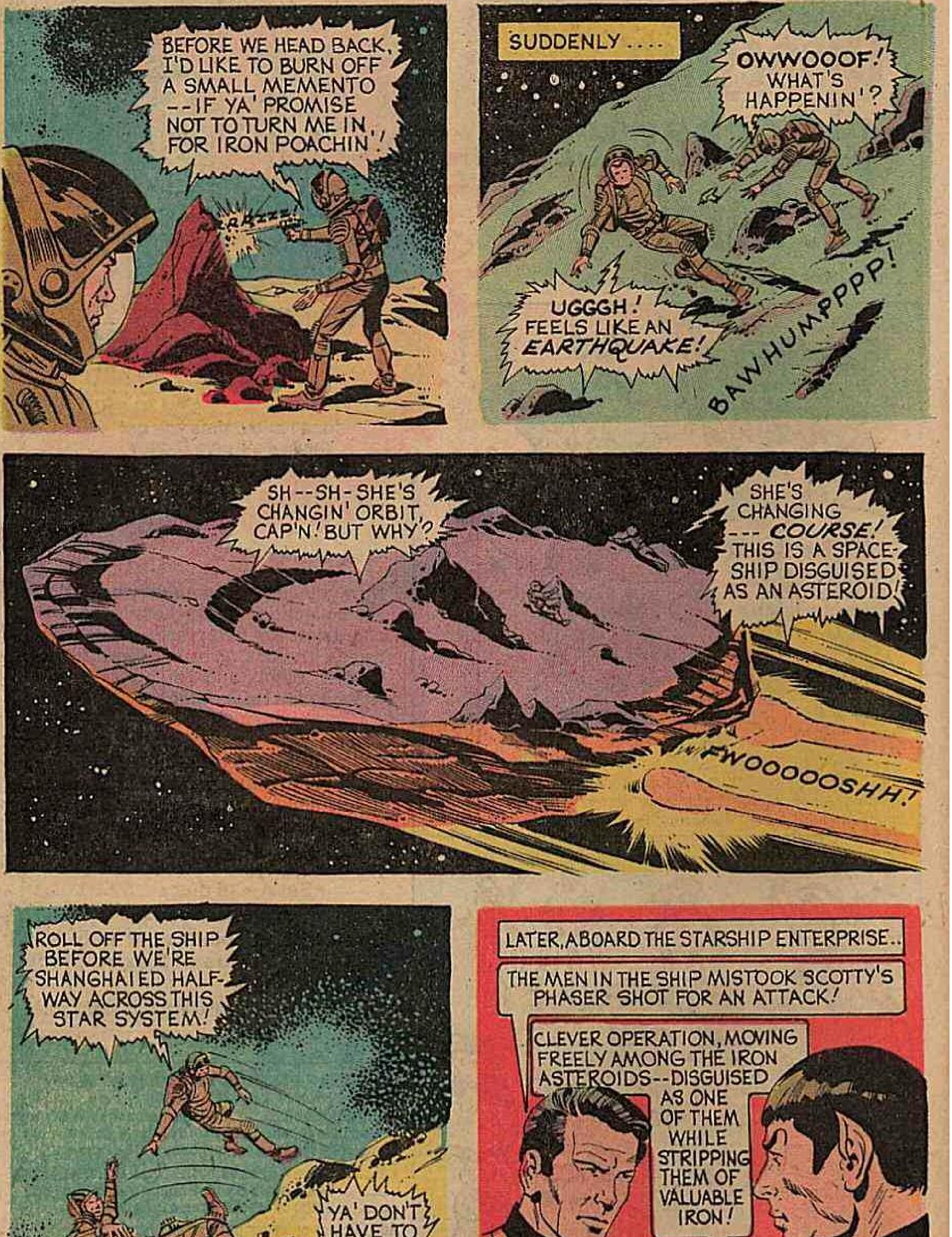

IN THE PRESENCE OF THOSE NEARLY-PURE IRON ASTEROIDS, WE'LL DISCONTINUE ALL MAGNETIC INSTRUMENTATION, MR. SULU!
RIGHT, CAPTAIN! BUT--

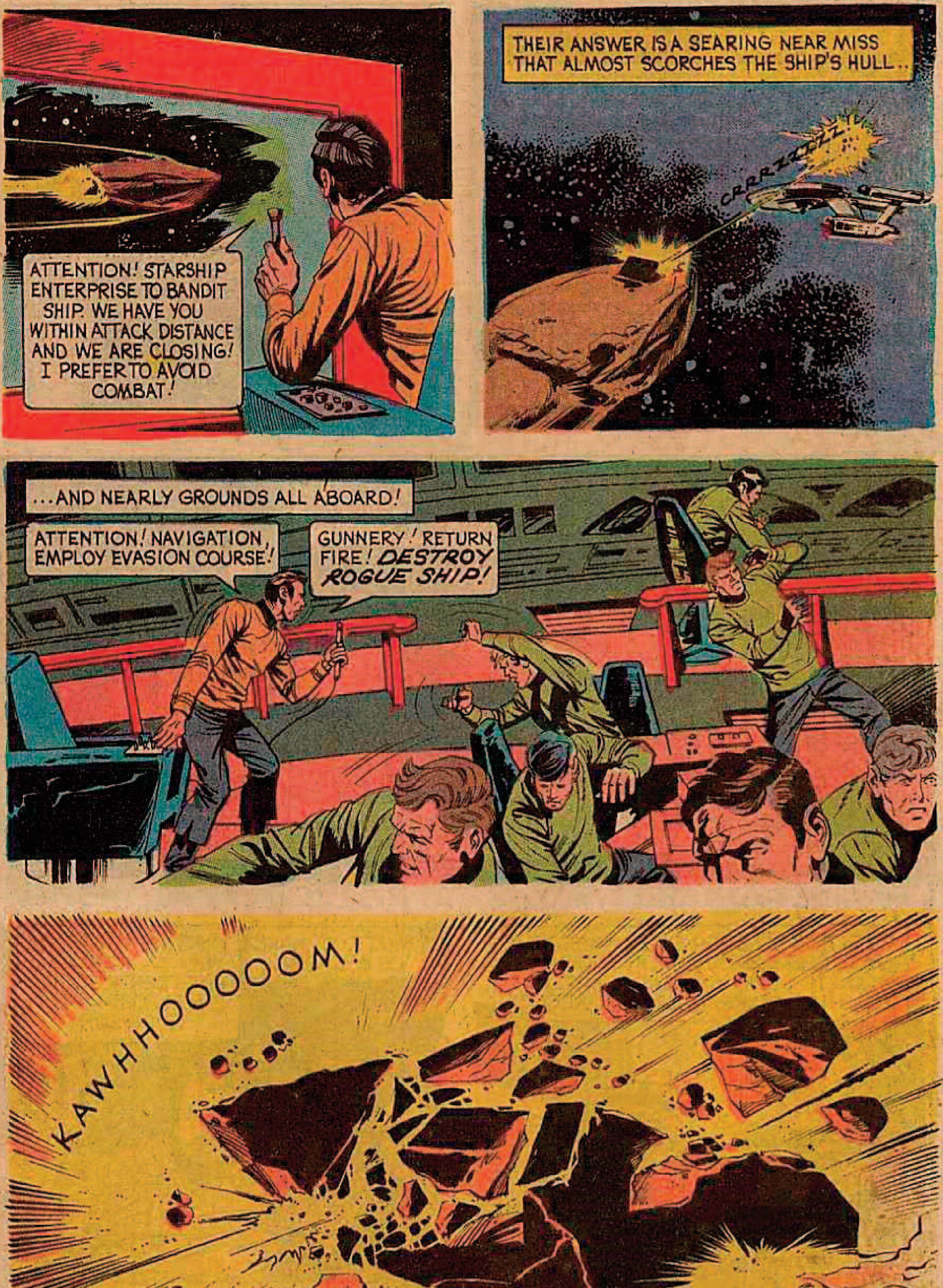

--WHAT ARE WE DOING SEARCHING FOR ILLEGAL IRON MINERS? THAT'S A JOB FOR FPS!
FEDERATED PLANET SECURITY WOULD TACKLE IT IF IT WERE A PURE POLICE MATTER!

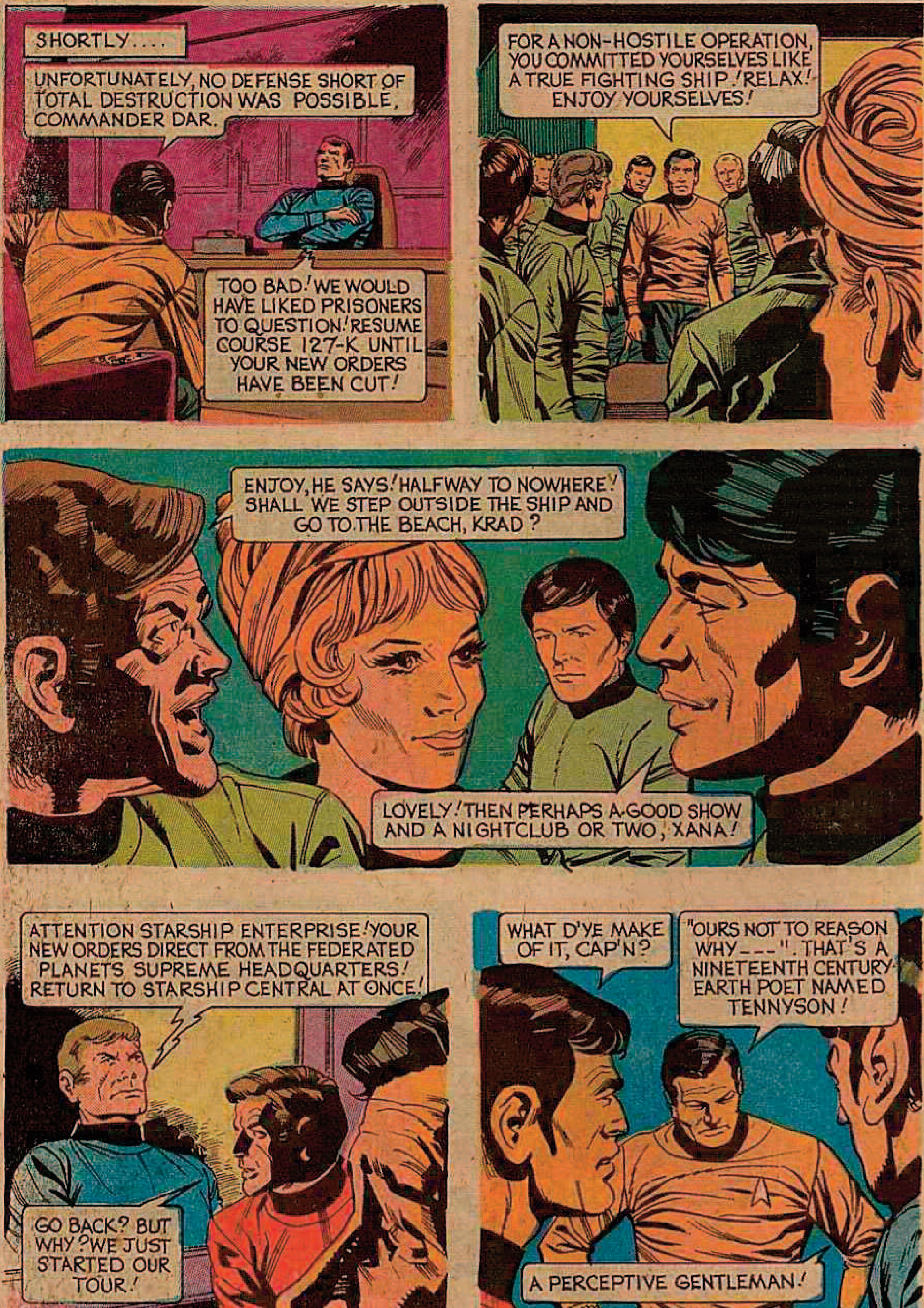

"BUT IT'S *NOT*! LONG AGO WHEN THIS OBSCURE ASTEROID BELT WAS FOUND TO BE ALMOST PURE IRON, THE MINING RUSH WAS ON --- LIKE THE GOLD FEVERS OF OLD!"
FZHOOOM!
SWOOOOSH!
WHUWHUWH!

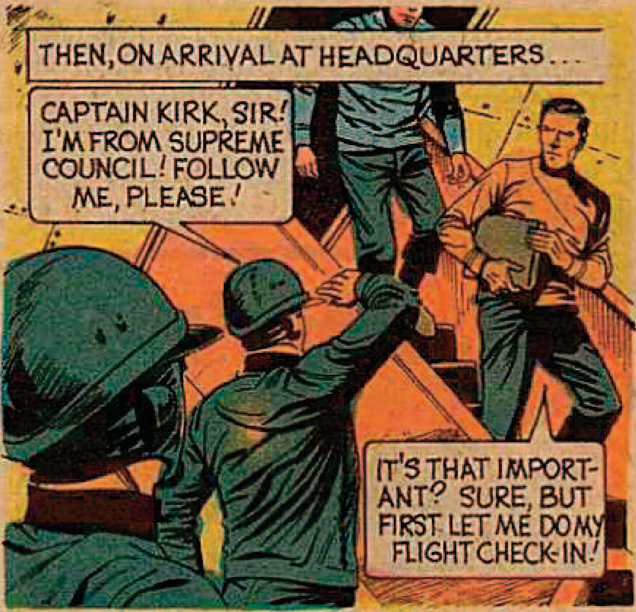

"THE BIG OPERATIONS ESTABLISHED WHOLE CITIES OVERNIGHT TO STRIP THE ASTEROIDS ...."
CLANG!
CLANG!
BRRRUP!
"AND THE SMALL OPERATORS JUST BLEW UP TINY ASTEROIDS ...."
FWOOOM
...AND CARTED OFF THE PIECES! THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF THEM! LIKE SO MANY ANTS CHOPPING AWAY AT A HILL!"
SWOOOSH!
FWOOOOSH!
SWOOOSH!
THE ASTEROID BELT ITSELF WAS BEING DESTROYED, ENDANGERING ADJOINING PLANETARY ORBITS!
YES! SURVIVAL OVERRULED PROFIT AND ALL MINING OPERATIONS WERE OUTLAWED!
SMALL PIRATE OPERATIONS ARE ALWAYS BEING BUSTED! BUT THERE IS A BIG ONE NOW THAT NOBODY HAS CRACKED!
I'VE GOT THE FERROUS ASTEROIDS ON THE SCANNER, CAPTAIN! I WANT YOU TO SEE SOMETHING!

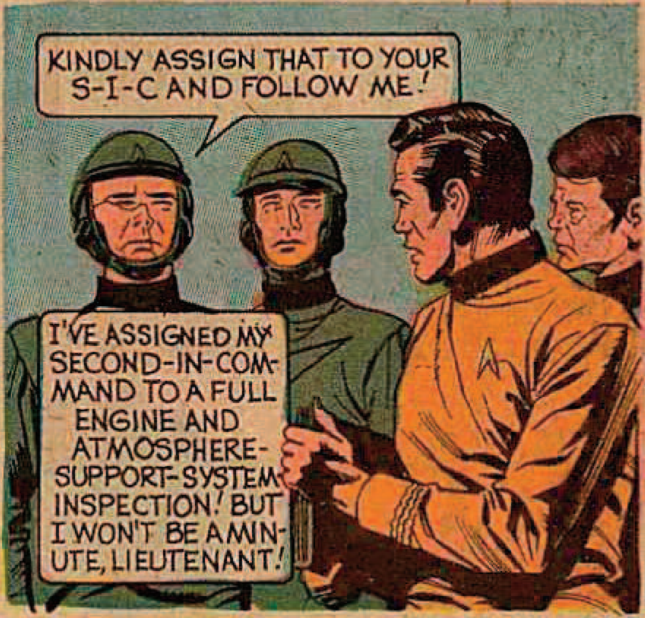

YES--THERE'S THE **CAMEL**, ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN OF THOSE ODDLY SHAPED BODIES!
PRECISELY. NOW LET ME SHOW YOU THE SUB-SECTOR CHART!
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN! THAT OTHER ASTEROID ON THE SCANNER --- IT'S NOT SHOWN HERE!
THE CHART SHOWS NOTHING THAT CLOSE TO THE CAMEL! AND THOSE EARLY ***IRON RUSHERS*** MADE VERY ACCURATE CHARTS!
I'M GOING OUT THERE TO HAVE A LOOK! THIS MAY BE THE FIRST BREAK IN THIS CASE IN YEARS!
MR. SCOTT! REPORT TO SPACE HATCH READY FOR EXTRA-VEHICULAR-ACTION!
AND SHORTLY....
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S MUCH DOIN' THERE, CAP'N!
RIGHT! WE CAN SEARCH EVERY CRANNY OF THAT ROCK IN TEN MINUTES! LET'S GET AT IT!
TEN MINUTES LATER, ALMOST TO THE SECOND...
I SPOTTED NARY A THING, CAP'N! SHE'S A BARE HUNK OF IRON LIKE THE REST!
STRANGE! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THOSE OLD IRON RUSHERS' CHARTS WERE WRONG!

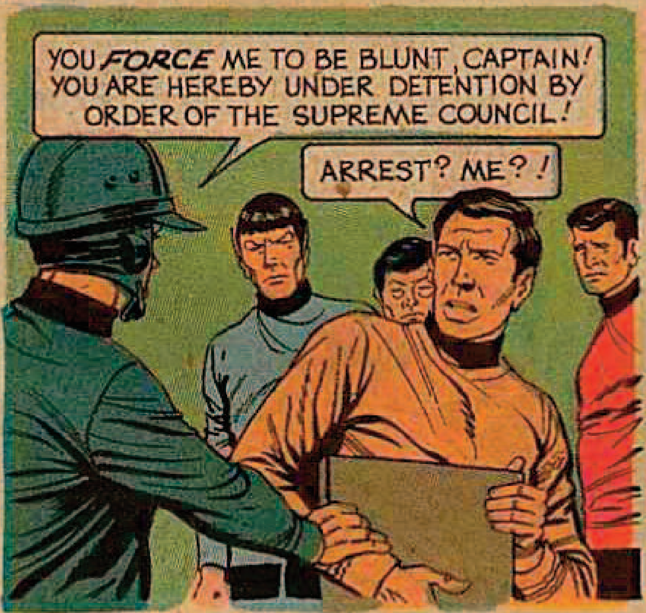

BEFORE WE HEAD BACK, I'D LIKE TO BURN OFF A SMALL MEMENTO --IF YA' PROMISE NOT TO TURN ME IN, FOR IRON POACHIN'!
ZZRAZZZZ
SUDDENLY....
OWWOOOF! WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?
UGGGH! FEELS LIKE AN *EARTHQUAKE*!
BAWHUMPPPP!
SH--SH-SHE'S CHANGIN' ORBIT, CAP'N! BUT WHY?
SHE'S CHANGING --- *COURSE*! THIS IS A SPACE-SHIP DISGUISED AS AN ASTEROID!
FWOOOOOSHH!
ROLL OFF THE SHIP BEFORE WE'RE SHANGHAIED HALF-WAY ACROSS THIS STAR SYSTEM!
YA' DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE, CAP'N!
LATER, ABOARD THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE..
THE MEN IN THE SHIP MISTOOK SCOTTY'S PHASER SHOT FOR AN ATTACK!
CLEVER OPERATION, MOVING FREELY AMONG THE IRON ASTEROIDS--DISGUISED AS ONE OF THEM WHILE STRIPPING THEM OF VALUABLE IRON!

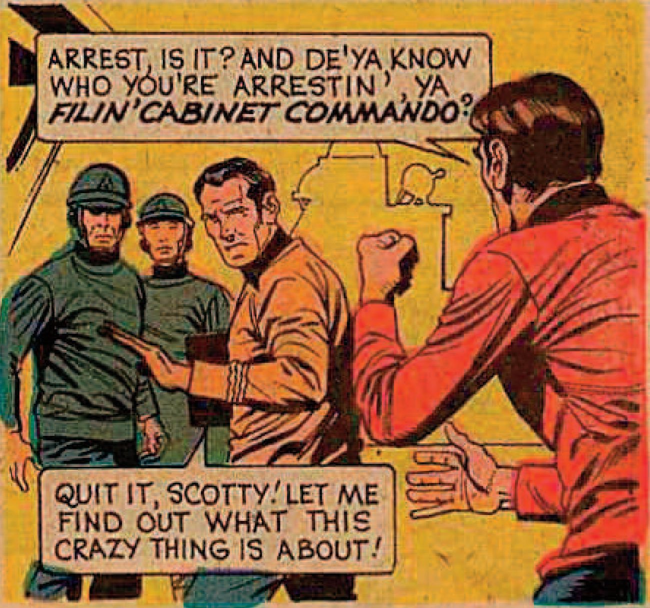

ATTENTION! STARSHIP ENTERPRISE TO BANDIT SHIP. WE HAVE YOU WITHIN ATTACK DISTANCE AND WE ARE CLOSING! I PREFER TO AVOID COMBAT!
THEIR ANSWER IS A SEARING NEAR MISS THAT ALMOST SCORCHES THE SHIP'S HULL..
CRRRZZZZZZ
...AND NEARLY GROUNDS ALL ABOARD!
ATTENTION! NAVIGATION, EMPLOY EVASION COURSE!
GUNNERY! RETURN FIRE! DESTROY ROGUE SHIP!
KAWHHOOOOOOM!

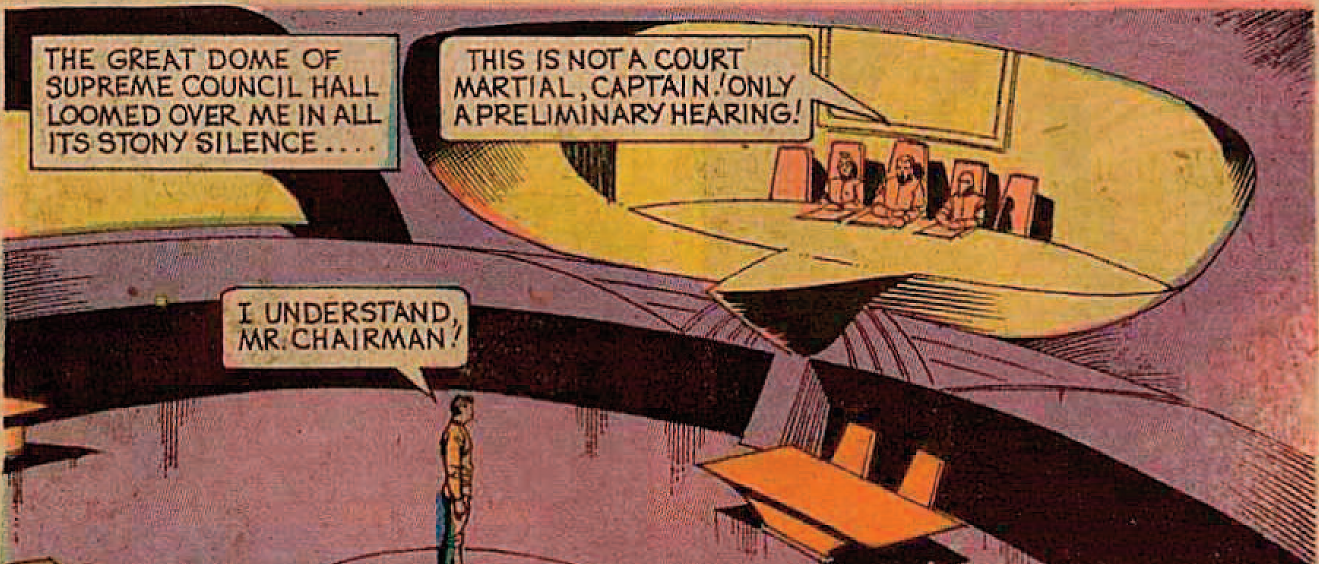

SHORTLY....
UNFORTUNATELY, NO DEFENSE SHORT OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION WAS POSSIBLE, COMMANDER DAR.
TOO BAD! WE WOULD HAVE LIKED PRISONERS TO QUESTION! RESUME COURSE 127-K UNTIL YOUR NEW ORDERS HAVE BEEN CUT!
FOR A NON-HOSTILE OPERATION, YOU COMMITTED YOURSELVES LIKE A TRUE FIGHTING SHIP! RELAX! ENJOY YOURSELVES!
ENJOY, HE SAYS! HALFWAY TO NOWHERE! SHALL WE STEP OUTSIDE THE SHIP AND GO TO THE BEACH, KRAD?
LOVELY! THEN PERHAPS A GOOD SHOW AND A NIGHTCLUB OR TWO, XANA!
ATTENTION STARSHIP ENTERPRISE! YOUR NEW ORDERS DIRECT FROM THE FEDERATED PLANETS SUPREME HEADQUARTERS! RETURN TO STARSHIP CENTRAL AT ONCE!
GO BACK? BUT WHY? WE JUST STARTED OUR TOUR!
WHAT D'YE MAKE OF IT, CAP'N?
"OURS NOT TO REASON WHY---". THAT'S A NINETEENTH CENTURY EARTH POET NAMED TENNYSON!
A PERCEPTIVE GENTLEMAN!

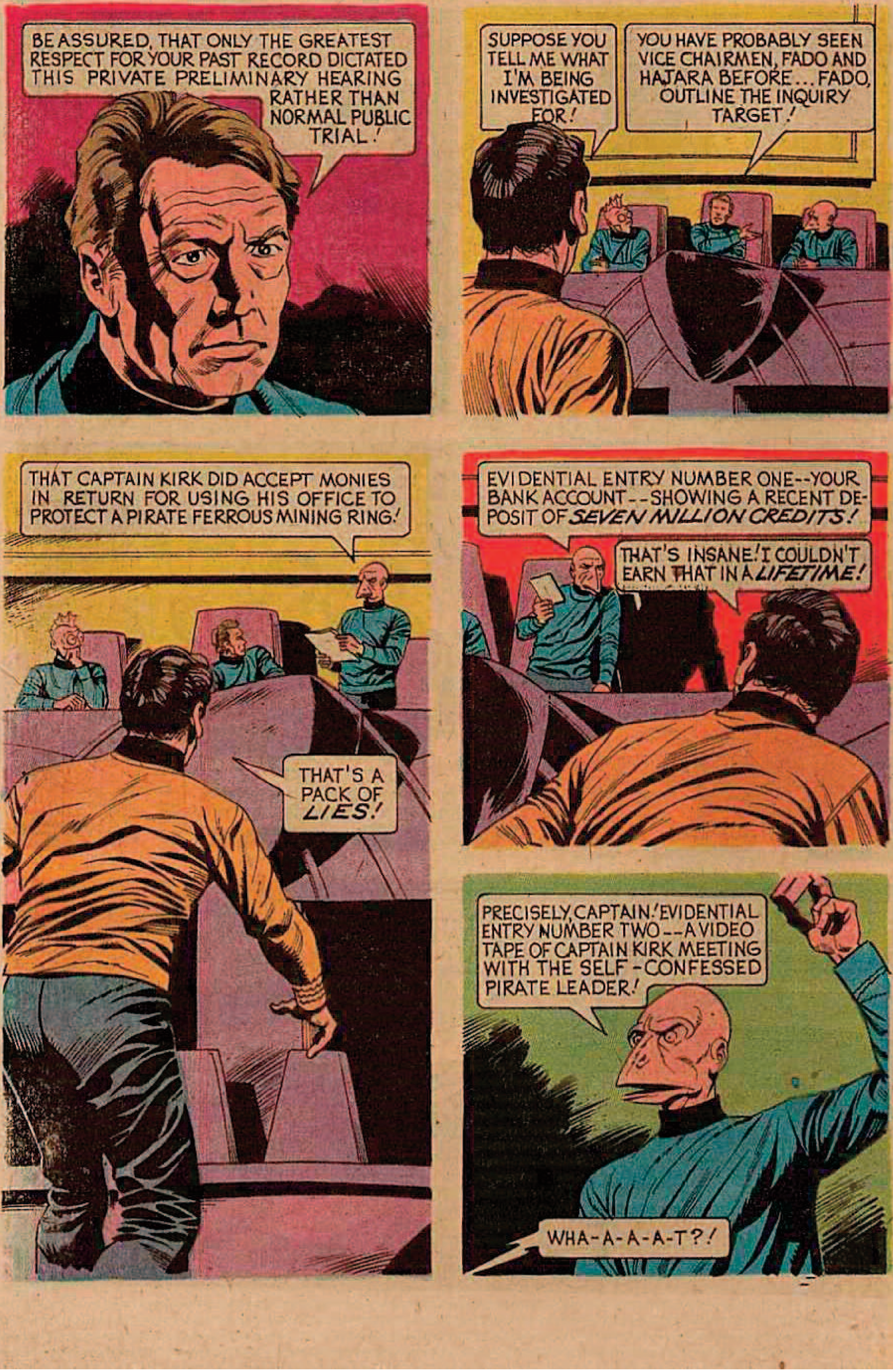

THEN, ON ARRIVAL AT HEADQUARTERS...
CAPTAIN KIRK, SIR! I'M FROM SUPREME COUNCIL! FOLLOW ME, PLEASE!
IT'S THAT IMPORTANT? SURE, BUT FIRST LET ME DO MY FLIGHT CHECK-IN!

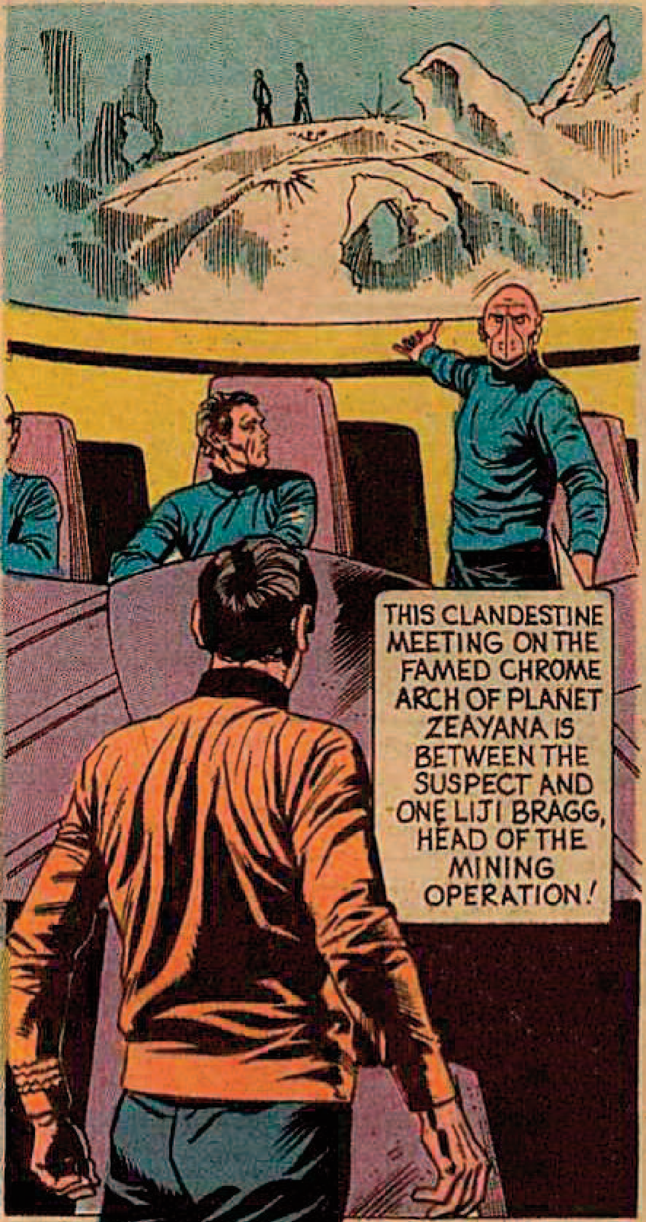

KINDLY ASSIGN THAT TO YOUR S-I-C AND FOLLOW ME!
I'VE ASSIGNED MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND TO A FULL ENGINE AND ATMOSPHERE-SUPPORT-SYSTEM INSPECTION! BUT I WON'T BE A MINUTE, LIEUTENANT!

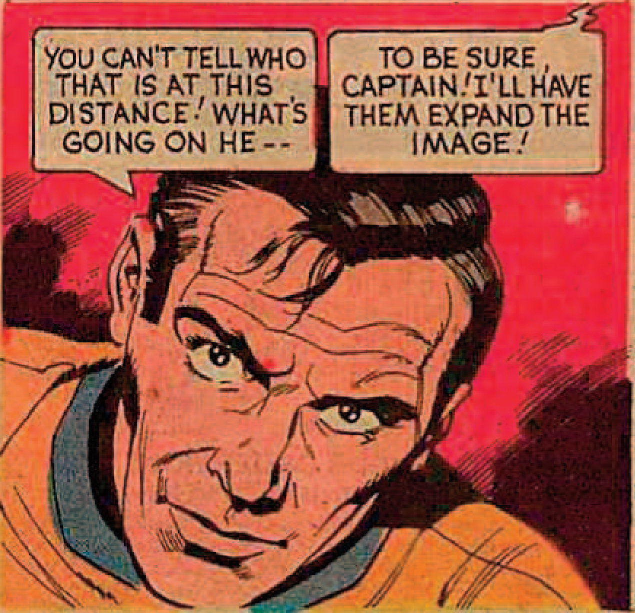

YOU *FORCE* ME TO BE BLUNT, CAPTAIN! YOU ARE HEREBY UNDER DETENTION BY ORDER OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL!
ARREST? ME?!

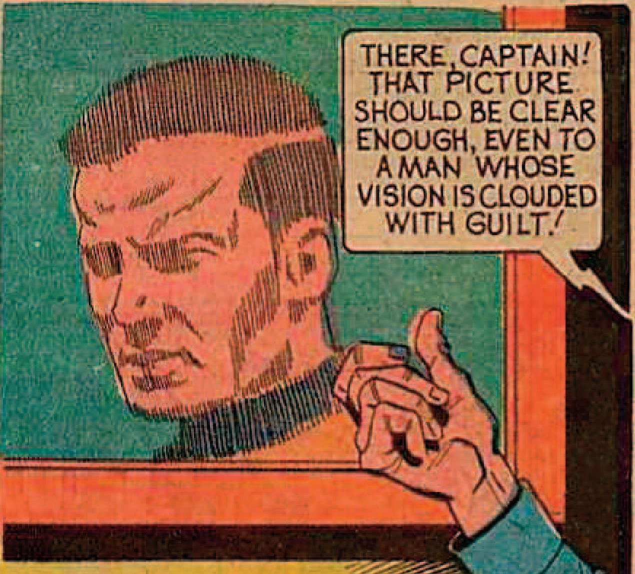

ARREST, IS IT? AND DE'YA KNOW WHO YOU'RE ARRESTIN', YA *FILIN' CABINET COMMANDO*?
QUIT IT, SCOTTY! LET ME FIND OUT WHAT THIS CRAZY THING IS ABOUT!

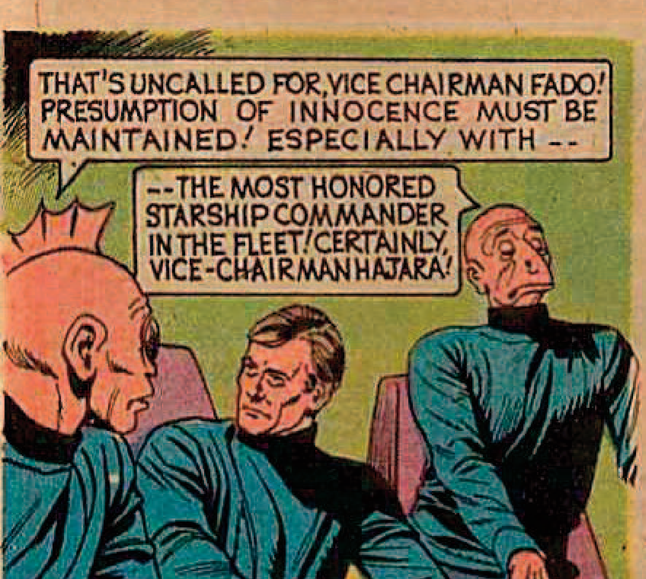

THE GREAT DOME OF SUPREME COUNCIL HALL LOOMED OVER ME IN ALL ITS STONY SILENCE....
THIS IS NOT A COURT MARTIAL, CAPTAIN! ONLY A PRELIMINARY HEARING!
I UNDERSTAND, MR. CHAIRMAN!

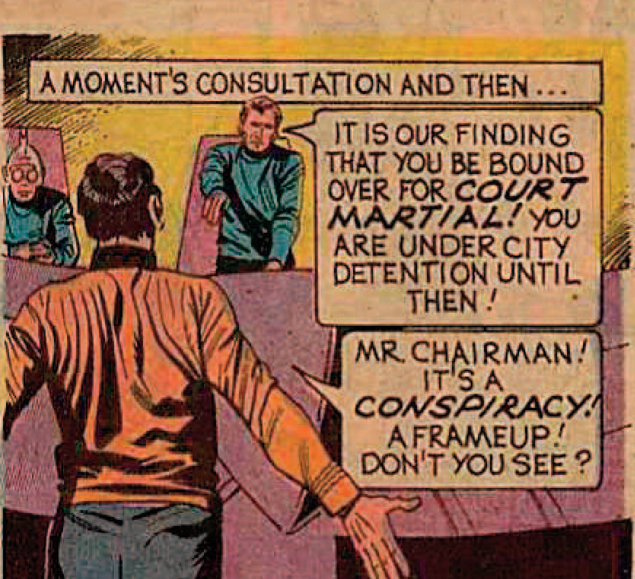

BE ASSURED, THAT ONLY THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR YOUR PAST RECORD DICTATED THIS PRIVATE PRELIMINARY HEARING RATHER THAN NORMAL PUBLIC TRIAL!
SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT I'M BEING INVESTIGATED FOR!
YOU HAVE PROBABLY SEEN VICE CHAIRMEN, FADO AND HAJARA BEFORE... FADO, OUTLINE THE INQUIRY TARGET!
THAT CAPTAIN KIRK DID ACCEPT MONIES IN RETURN FOR USING HIS OFFICE TO PROTECT A PIRATE FERROUS MINING RING!
THAT'S A PACK OF *LIES*!
EVIDENTIAL ENTRY NUMBER ONE--YOUR BANK ACCOUNT--SHOWING A RECENT DEPOSIT OF *SEVEN MILLION CREDITS*!
THAT'S INSANE! I COULDN'T EARN THAT IN A *LIFETIME*!
PRECISELY, CAPTAIN! EVIDENTIAL ENTRY NUMBER TWO--A VIDEO TAPE OF CAPTAIN KIRK MEETING WITH THE SELF-CONFESSED PIRATE LEADER!
WHA-A-A-A-T?!

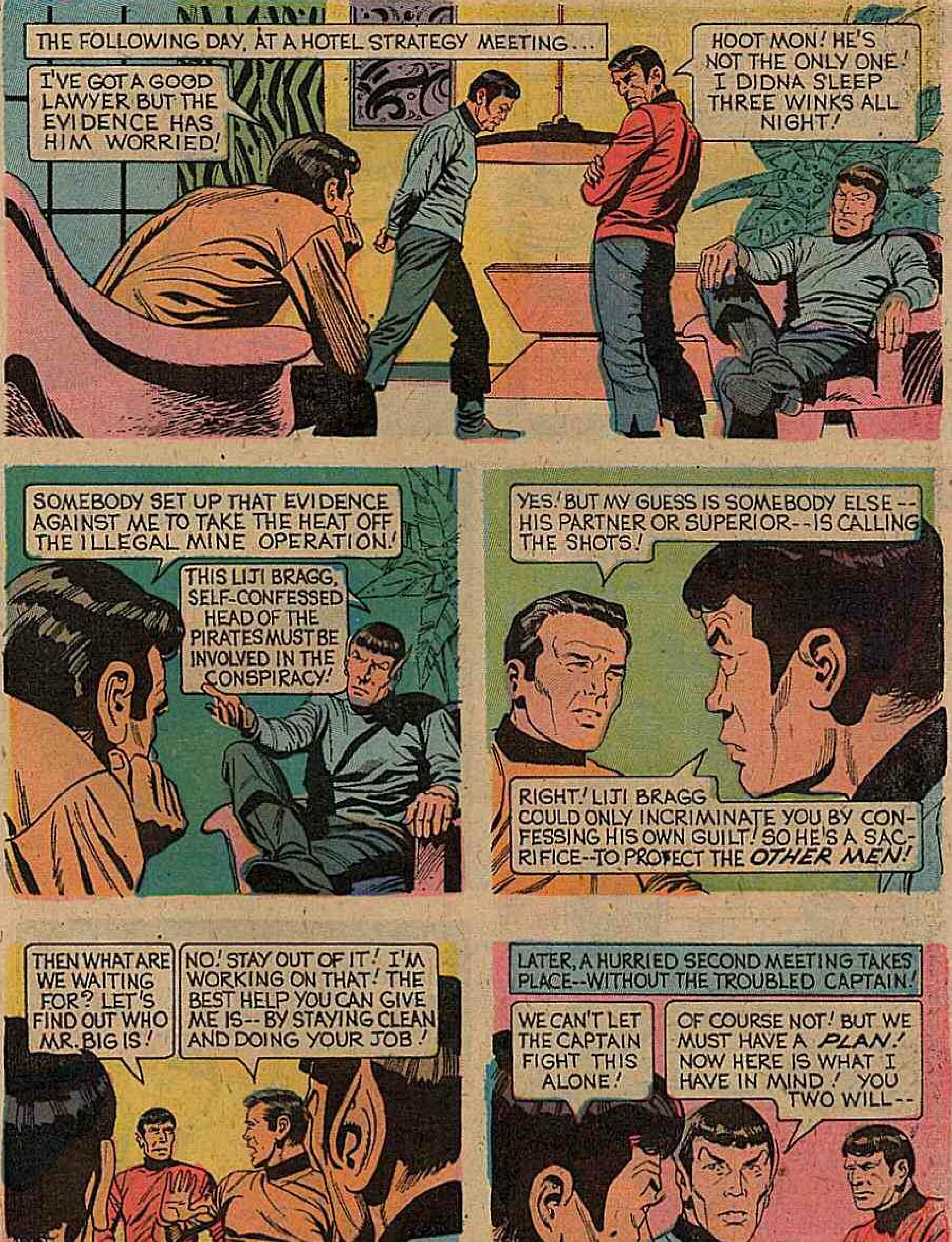

THIS CLANDESTINE MEETING ON THE FAMED CHROME ARCH OF PLANET ZEAYANA IS BETWEEN THE SUSPECT AND ONE LIJI BRAGG, HEAD OF THE MINING OPERATION!

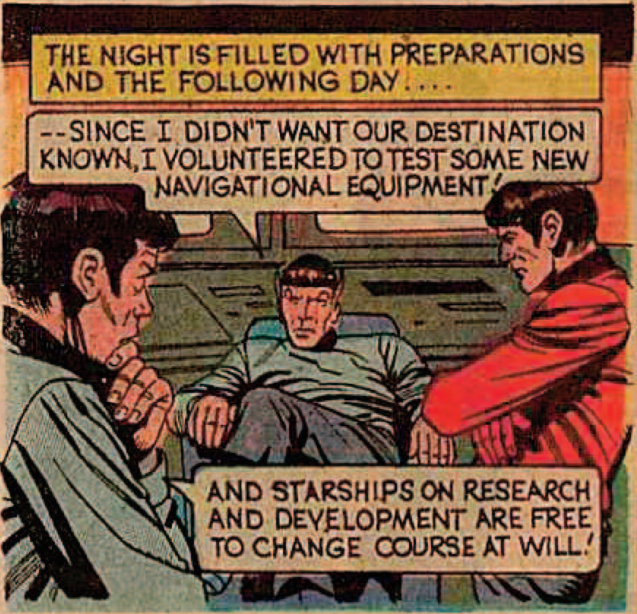

YOU CAN'T TELL WHO THAT IS AT THIS DISTANCE! WHAT'S GOING ON HE --
TO BE SURE, CAPTAIN! I'LL HAVE THEM EXPAND THE IMAGE!

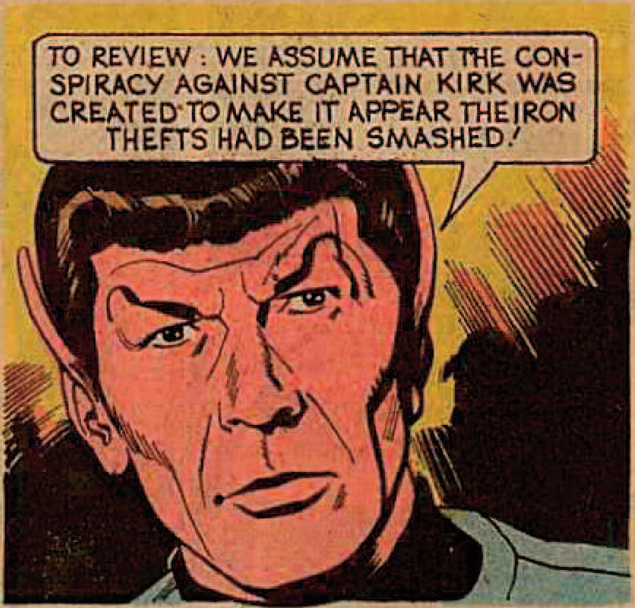

THERE, CAPTAIN! THAT PICTURE SHOULD BE CLEAR ENOUGH, EVEN TO A MAN WHOSE VISION IS CLOUDED WITH GUILT!

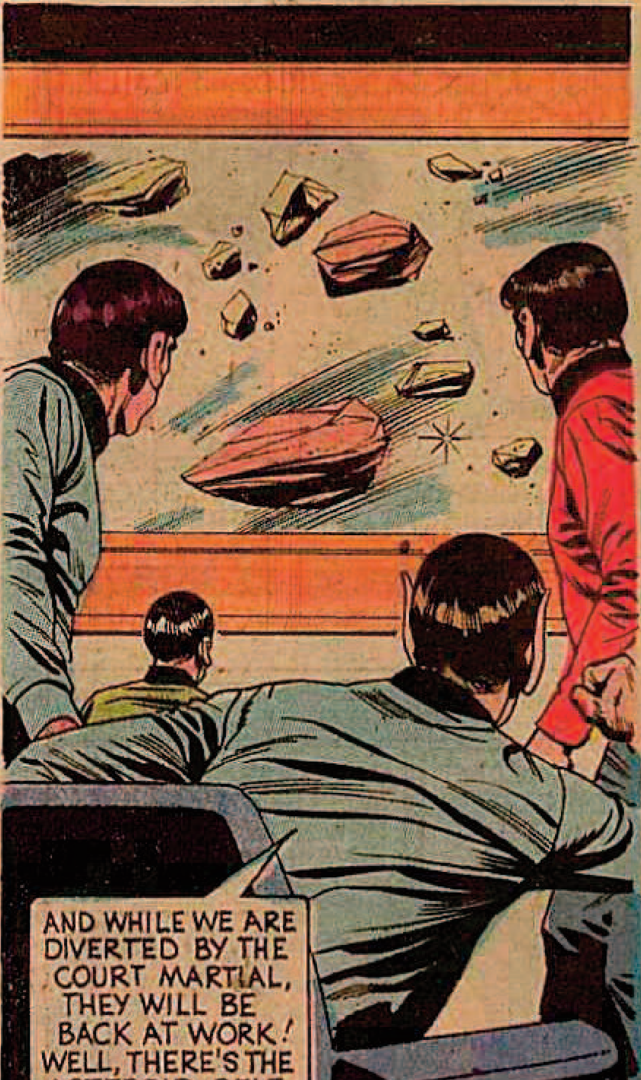

THAT'S UNCALLED FOR, VICE CHAIRMAN FADO! PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE MUST BE MAINTAINED! ESPECIALLY WITH --
--THE MOST HONORED STARSHIP COMMANDER IN THE FLEET! CERTAINLY, VICE-CHAIRMAN HAJARA!

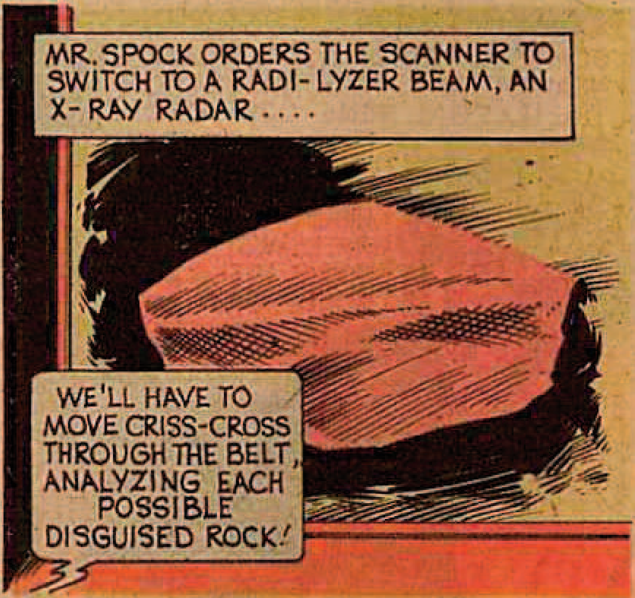

A MOMENT'S CONSULTATION AND THEN ...
IT IS OUR FINDING THAT YOU BE BOUND OVER FOR COURT MARTIAL! YOU ARE UNDER CITY DETENTION UNTIL THEN!
MR. CHAIRMAN! IT'S A CONSPIRACY! A FRAMEUP! DON'T YOU SEE?

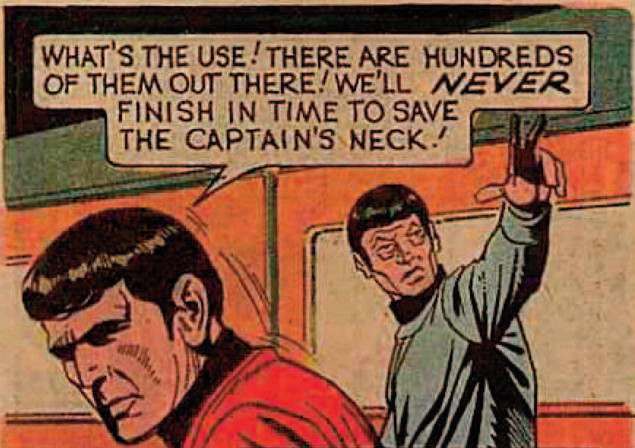

THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT A HOTEL STRATEGY MEETING...
I'VE GOT A GOOD LAWYER BUT THE EVIDENCE HAS HIM WORRIED!
HOOT MON! HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE! I DIDNA SLEEP THREE WINKS ALL NIGHT!
SOMEBODY SET UP THAT EVIDENCE AGAINST ME TO TAKE THE HEAT OFF THE ILLEGAL MINE OPERATION!
THIS LIJI BRAGG, SELF-CONFESSED HEAD OF THE PIRATES MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY!
YES! BUT MY GUESS IS SOMEBODY ELSE -- HIS PARTNER OR SUPERIOR -- IS CALLING THE SHOTS!
RIGHT! LIJI BRAGG COULD ONLY INCRIMINATE YOU BY CONFESSING HIS OWN GUILT! SO HE'S A SACRIFICE -- TO PROTECT THE *OTHER MEN*!
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S FIND OUT WHO MR. BIG IS!
NO! STAY OUT OF IT! I'M WORKING ON THAT! THE BEST HELP YOU CAN GIVE ME IS -- BY STAYING CLEAN AND DOING YOUR JOB!
LATER, A HURRIED SECOND MEETING TAKES PLACE -- WITHOUT THE TROUBLED CAPTAIN!
WE CAN'T LET THE CAPTAIN FIGHT THIS ALONE!
OF COURSE NOT! BUT WE MUST HAVE A *PLAN*! NOW HERE IS WHAT I HAVE IN MIND! YOU TWO WILL --

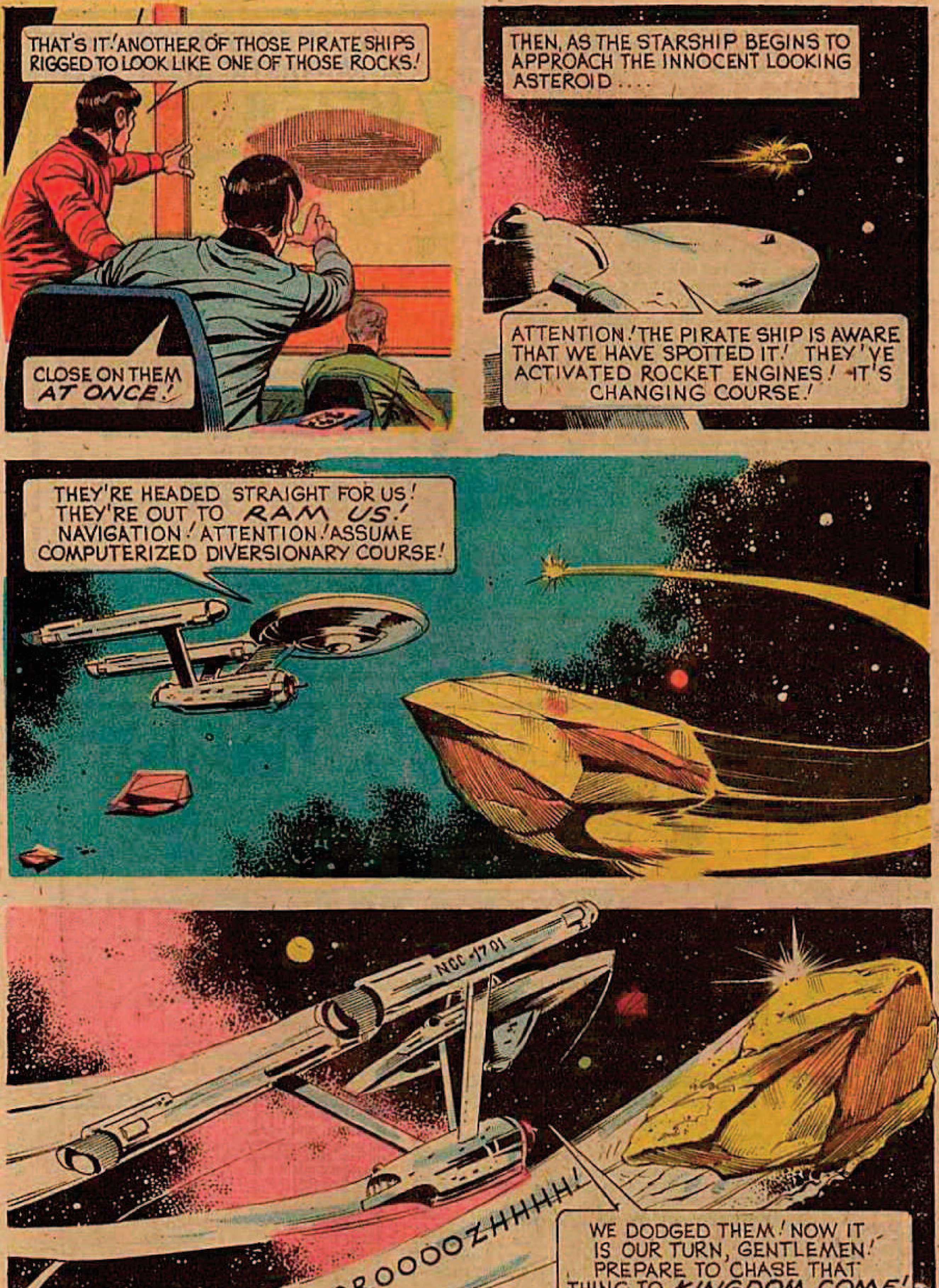

THE NIGHT IS FILLED WITH PREPARATIONS AND THE FOLLOWING DAY . . .
--SINCE I DIDN'T WANT OUR DESTINATION KNOWN, I VOLUNTEERED TO TEST SOME NEW NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT!
AND STARSHIPS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARE FREE TO CHANGE COURSE AT WILL!

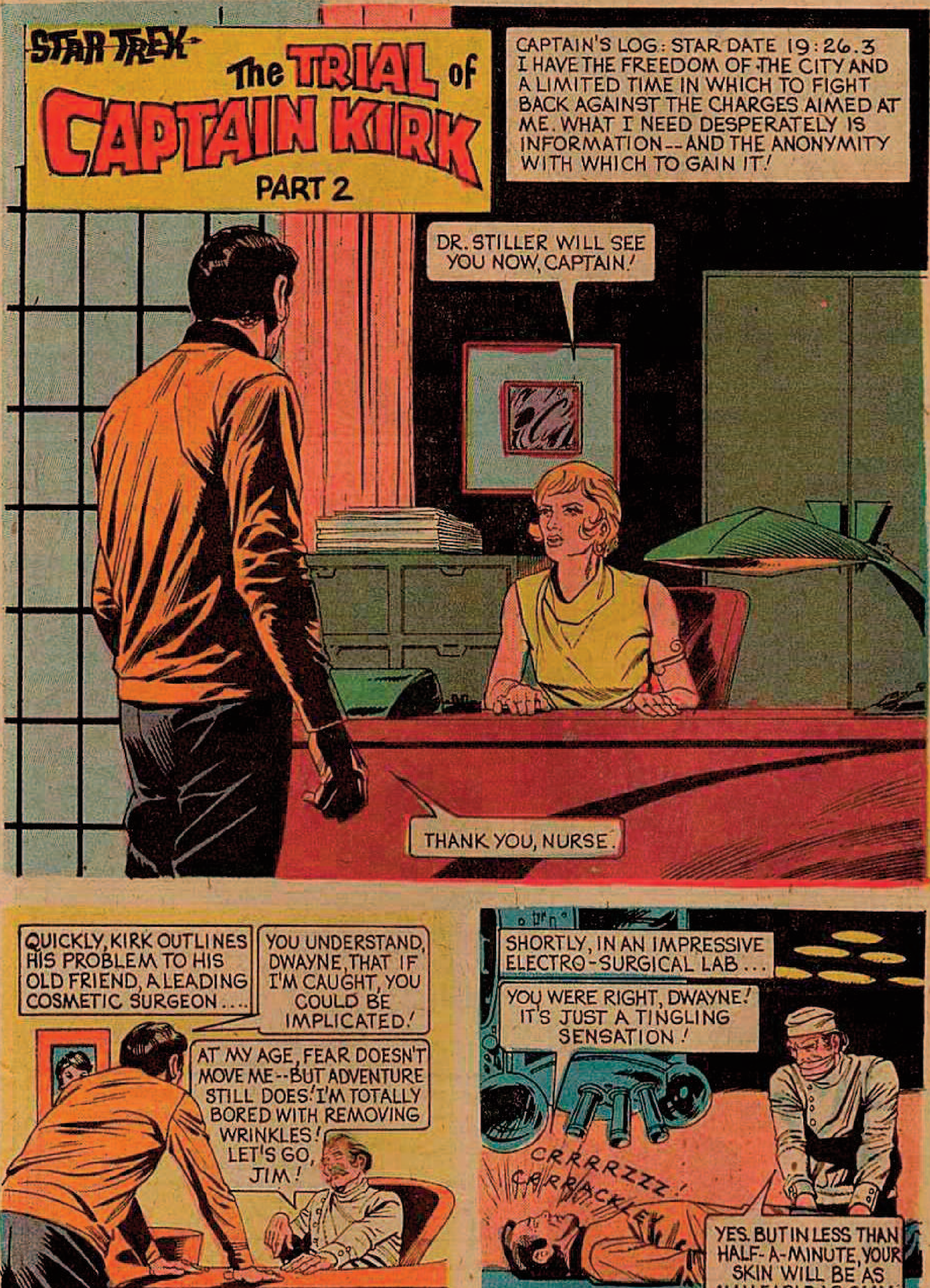

TO REVIEW: WE ASSUME THAT THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST CAPTAIN KIRK WAS CREATED TO MAKE IT APPEAR THE IRON THEFTS HAD BEEN SMASHED!

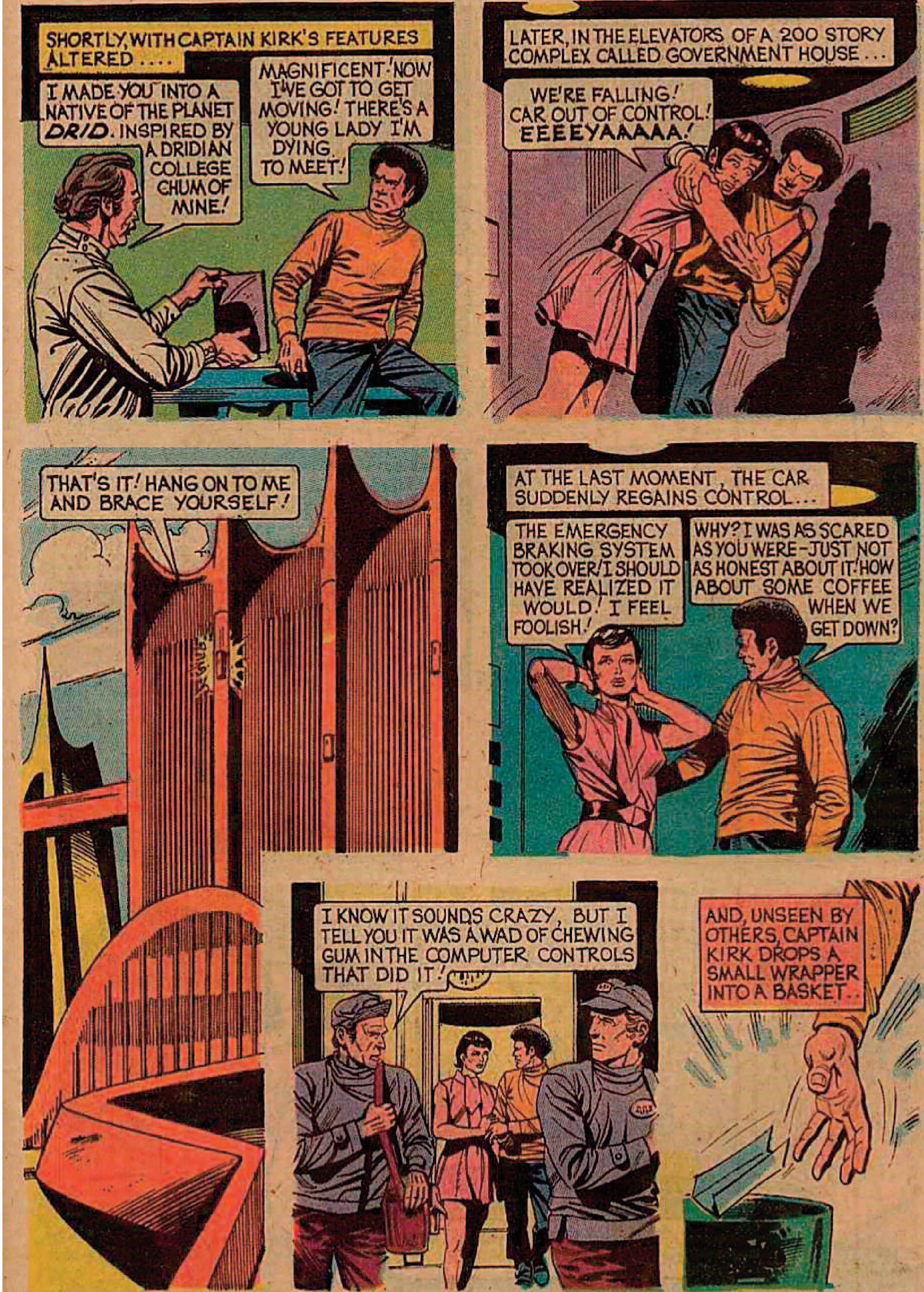

AND WHILE WE ARE DIVERTED BY THE COURT MARTIAL, THEY WILL BE BACK AT WORK! WELL, THERE'S THE ASTEROID BELT AND OUR THEORY IS ABOUT TO BE TESTED!

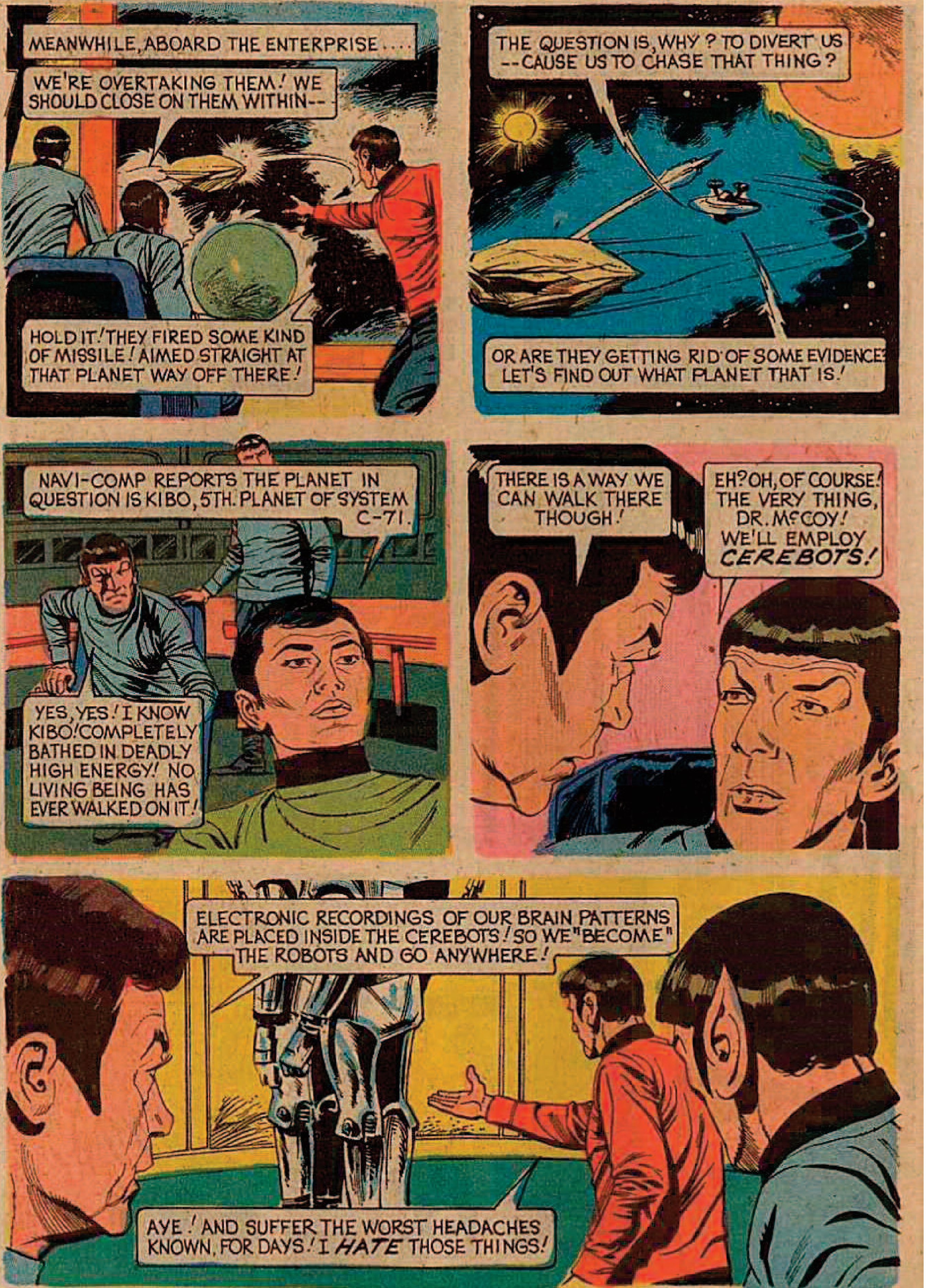

MR. SPOCK ORDERS THE SCANNER TO SWITCH TO A RADI-LYZER BEAM, AN X-RAY RADAR . . . .
WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE CRISS-CROSS THROUGH THE BELT, ANALYZING EACH POSSIBLE DISGUISED ROCK!

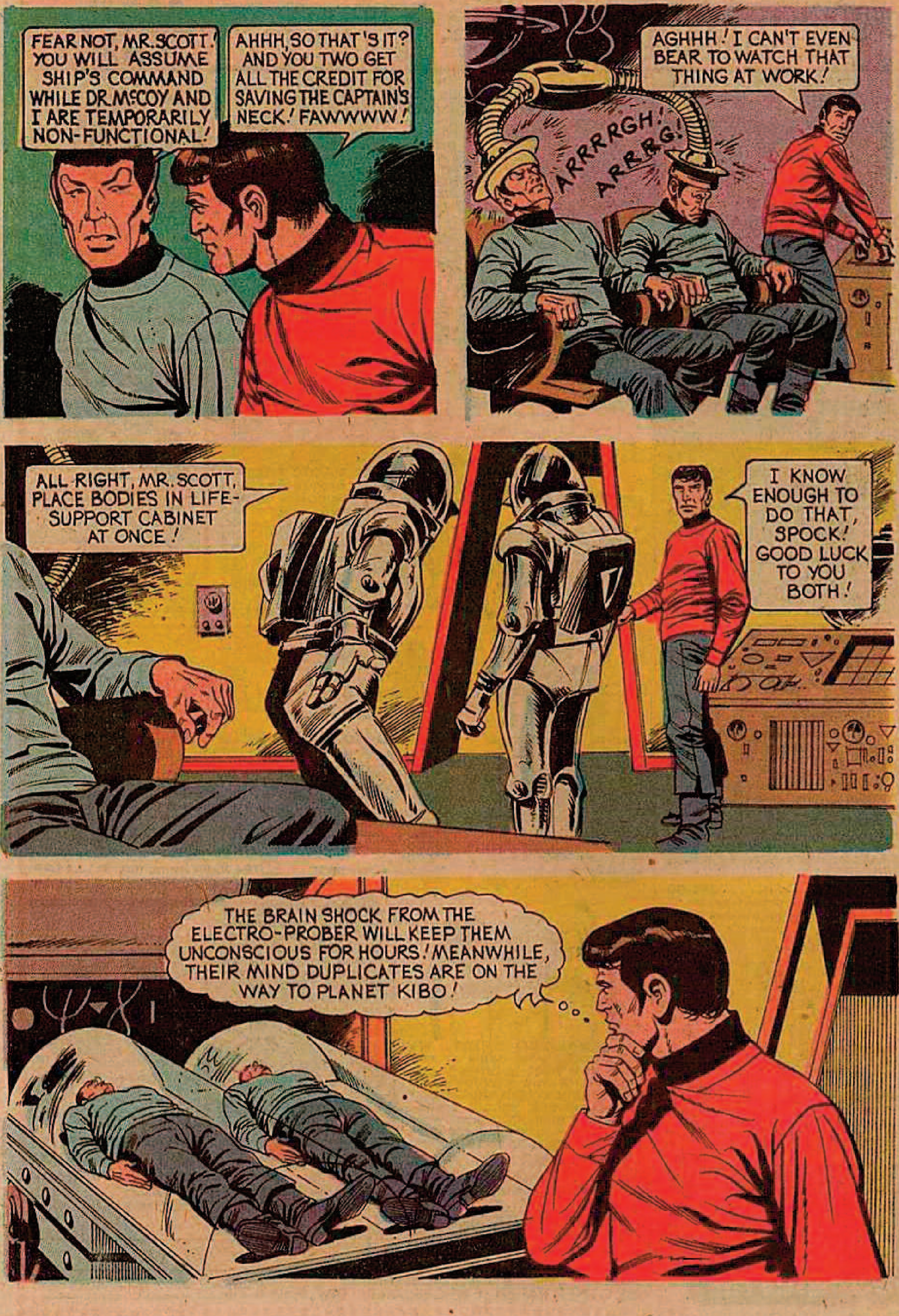

WHAT'S THE USE! THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THEM OUT THERE! WE'LL *NEVER* FINISH IN TIME TO SAVE THE CAPTAIN'S NECK!
GUESS AGAIN, YOU OATMEAL-HEADED SCOTSMAN! LOOK!

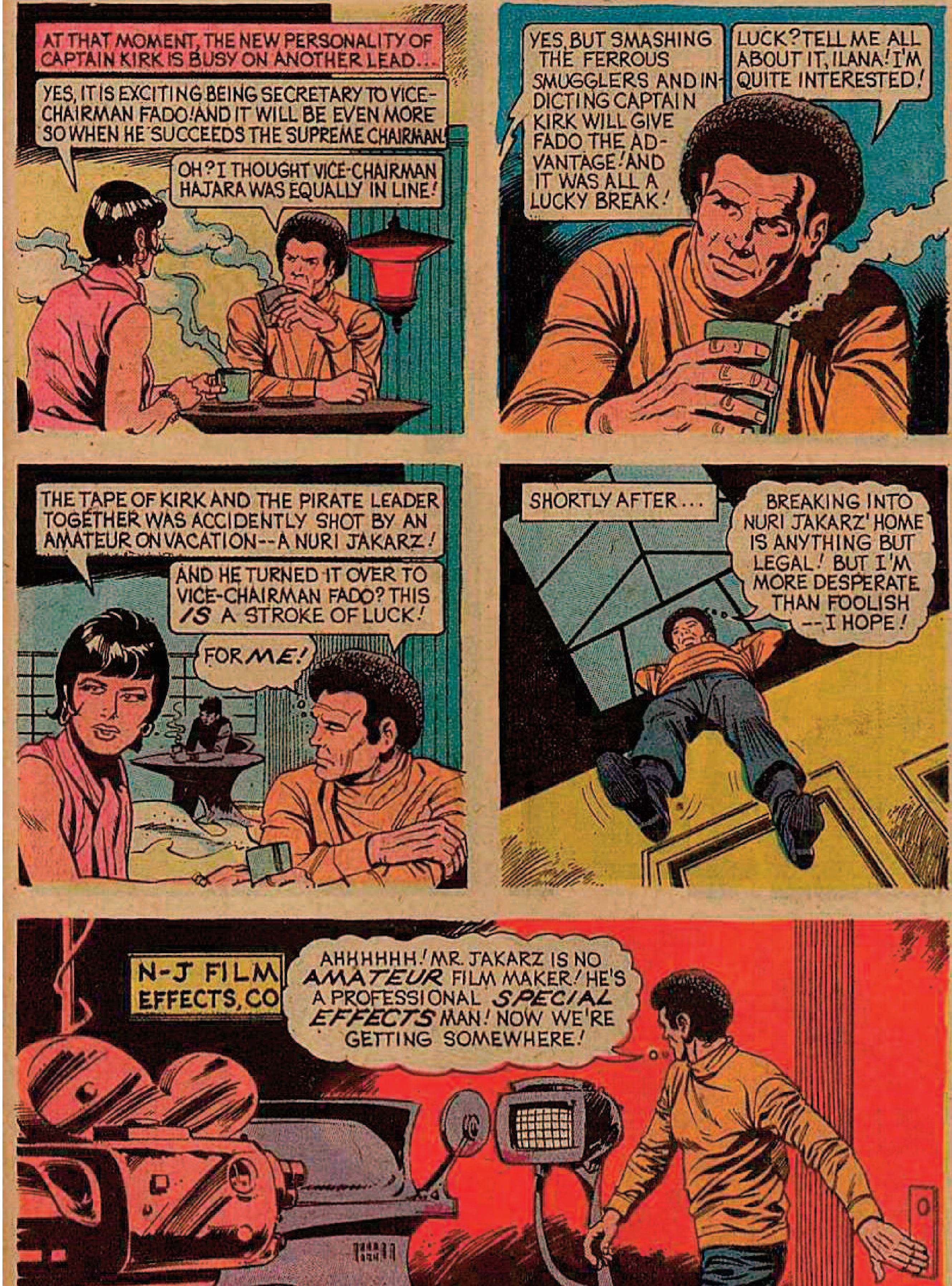

THAT'S IT! ANOTHER OF THOSE PIRATE SHIPS RIGGED TO LOOK LIKE ONE OF THOSE ROCKS!
CLOSE ON THEM AT ONCE!
THEN, AS THE STARSHIP BEGINS TO APPROACH THE INNOCENT LOOKING ASTEROID....
ATTENTION! THE PIRATE SHIP IS AWARE THAT WE HAVE SPOTTED IT! THEY'VE ACTIVATED ROCKET ENGINES! IT'S CHANGING COURSE!
THEY'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR US! THEY'RE OUT TO RAM US! NAVIGATION! ATTENTION! ASSUME COMPUTERIZED DIVERSIONARY COURSE!
NCC-1701
VRRROOOOZHHHH!
WE DODGED THEM! NOW IT IS OUR TURN, GENTLEMEN! PREPARE TO CHASE THAT THING TO KINGDOM COME!
END OF PART I

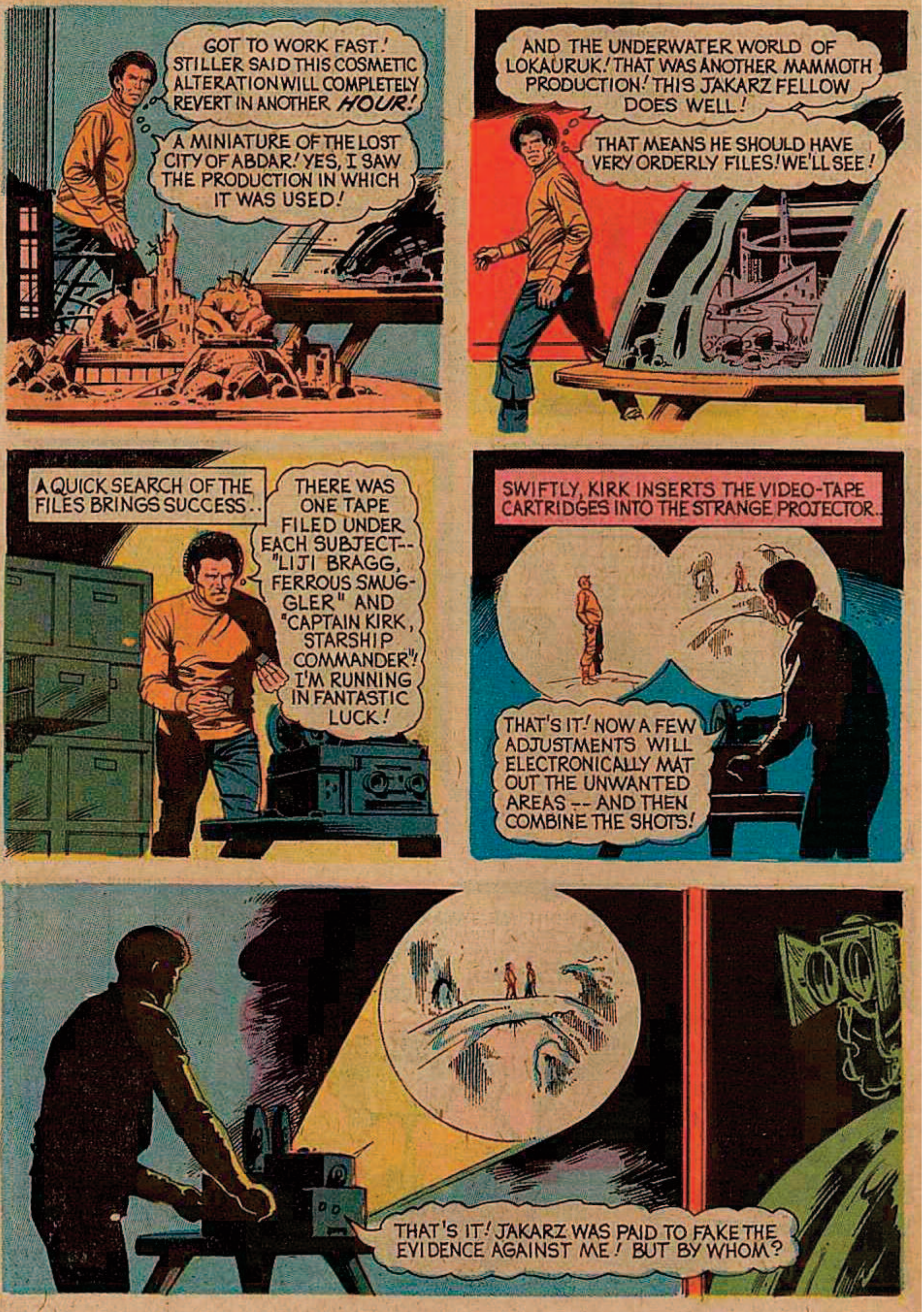

STAR TREK
The TRIAL of CAPTAIN KIRK
PART 2
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 19:26.3 I HAVE THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY AND A LIMITED TIME IN WHICH TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE CHARGES AIMED AT ME. WHAT I NEED DESPERATELY IS INFORMATION--AND THE ANONYMITY WITH WHICH TO GAIN IT!
DR. STILLER WILL SEE YOU NOW, CAPTAIN!
THANK YOU, NURSE.
QUICKLY, KIRK OUTLINES HIS PROBLEM TO HIS OLD FRIEND, A LEADING COSMETIC SURGEON....
YOU UNDERSTAND, DWAYNE, THAT IF I'M CAUGHT, YOU COULD BE IMPLICATED!
AT MY AGE, FEAR DOESN'T MOVE ME--BUT ADVENTURE STILL DOES! I'M TOTALLY BORED WITH REMOVING WRINKLES! LET'S GO, JIM!
SHORTLY, IN AN IMPRESSIVE ELECTRO-SURGICAL LAB...
YOU WERE RIGHT, DWAYNE! IT'S JUST A TINGLING SENSATION!
CRRRRZZZ!
CRRRACKLE!
YES. BUT IN LESS THAN HALF-A-MINUTE, YOUR SKIN WILL BE AS MALLEABLE AS CLAY!

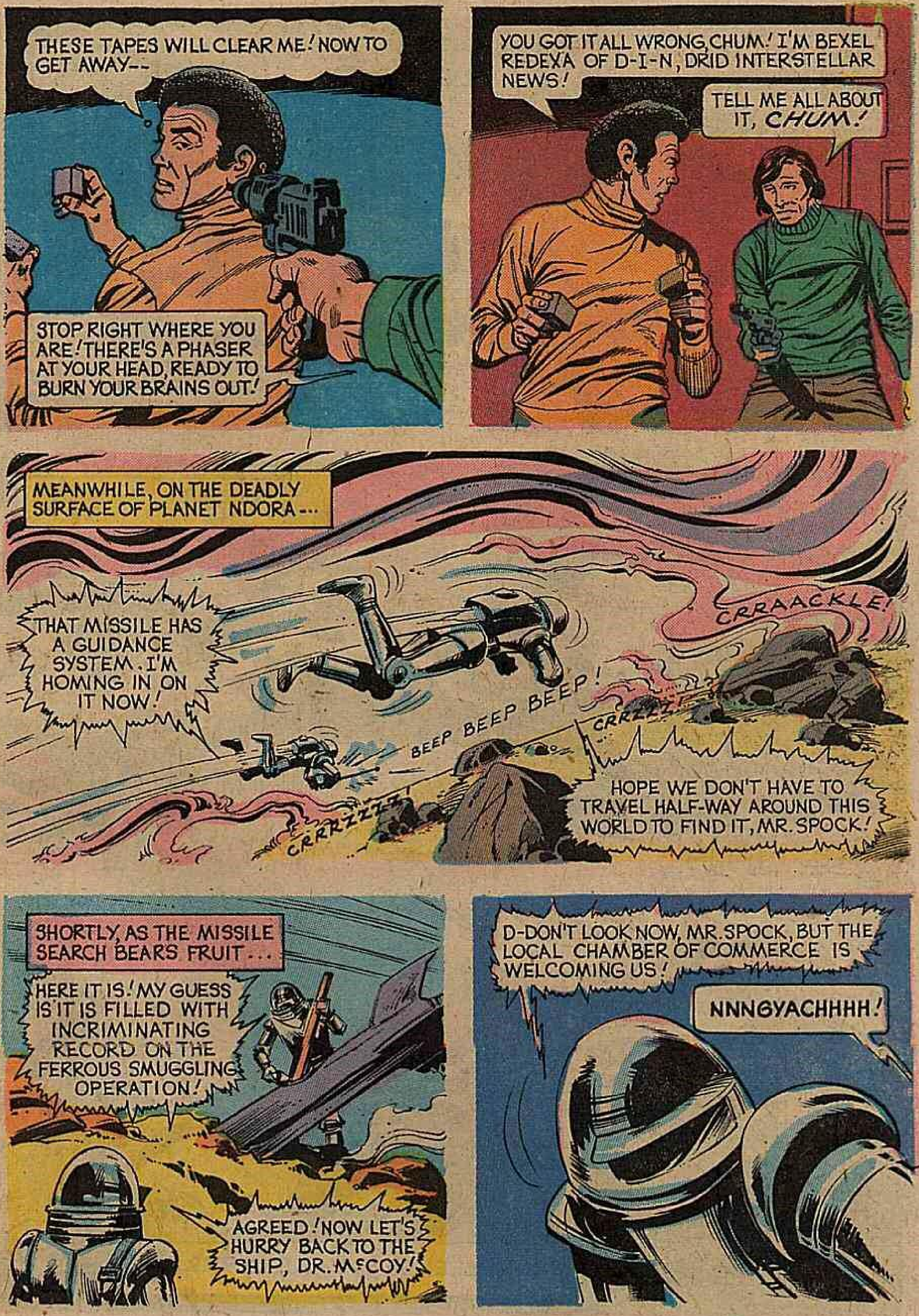

SHORTLY, WITH CAPTAIN KIRK'S FEATURES ALTERED . . . .
I MADE YOU INTO A NATIVE OF THE PLANET DRID. INSPIRED BY A DRIDIAN COLLEGE CHUM OF MINE!
MAGNIFICENT! NOW I'VE GOT TO GET MOVING! THERE'S A YOUNG LADY I'M DYING TO MEET!
LATER, IN THE ELEVATORS OF A 200 STORY COMPLEX CALLED GOVERNMENT HOUSE . . .
WE'RE FALLING! CAR OUT OF CONTROL! EEEEYAAAAA!
THAT'S IT! HANG ON TO ME AND BRACE YOURSELF!
AT THE LAST MOMENT, THE CAR SUDDENLY REGAINS CONTROL . . .
THE EMERGENCY BRAKING SYSTEM TOOK OVER! I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT WOULD! I FEEL FOOLISH!
WHY? I WAS AS SCARED AS YOU WERE—JUST NOT AS HONEST ABOUT IT! HOW ABOUT SOME COFFEE WHEN WE GET DOWN?
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT I TELL YOU IT WAS A WAD OF CHEWING GUM IN THE COMPUTER CONTROLS THAT DID IT!
AND, UNSEEN BY OTHERS, CAPTAIN KIRK DROPS A SMALL WRAPPER INTO A BASKET . .

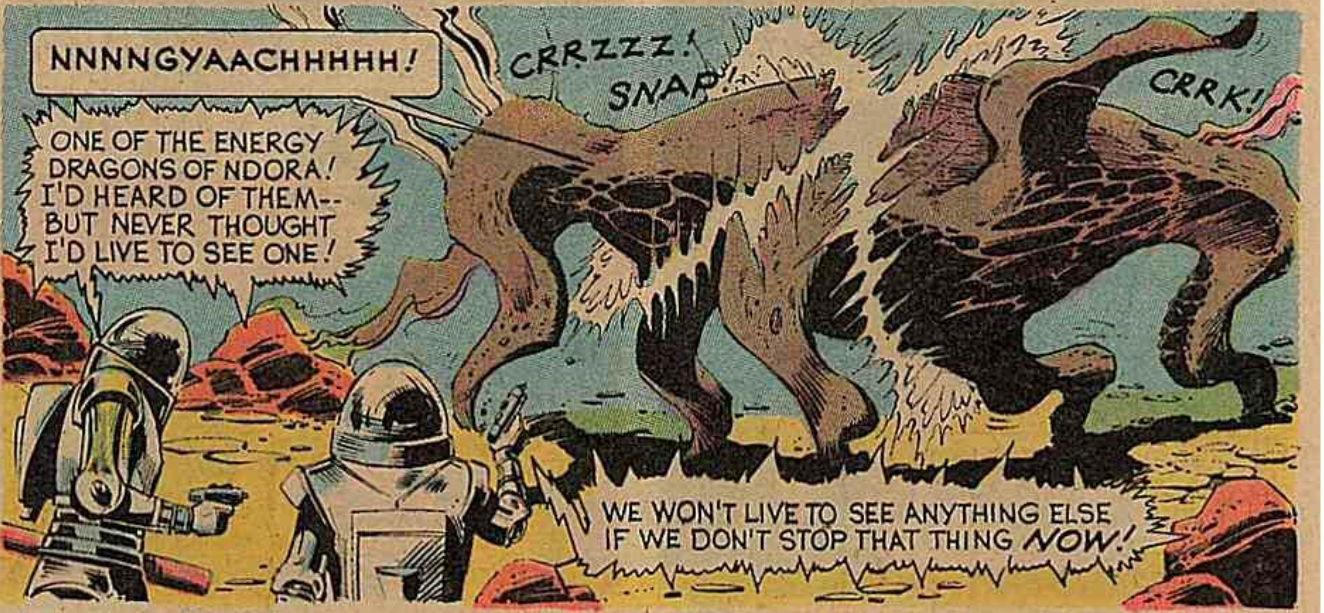

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE....
WE'RE OVERTAKING THEM! WE SHOULD CLOSE ON THEM WITHIN--
HOLD IT! THEY FIRED SOME KIND OF MISSILE! AIMED STRAIGHT AT THAT PLANET WAY OFF THERE!
THE QUESTION IS, WHY? TO DIVERT US --CAUSE US TO CHASE THAT THING?
OR ARE THEY GETTING RID OF SOME EVIDENCE? LET'S FIND OUT WHAT PLANET THAT IS!
NAVI-COMP REPORTS THE PLANET IN QUESTION IS KIBO, 5TH. PLANET OF SYSTEM C-71.
YES, YES! I KNOW KIBO! COMPLETELY BATHED IN DEADLY HIGH ENERGY! NO LIVING BEING HAS EVER WALKED ON IT!
THERE IS A WAY WE CAN WALK THERE THOUGH!
EH? OH, OF COURSE! THE VERY THING, DR. McCOY! WE'LL EMPLOY CEREBOTS!
ELECTRONIC RECORDINGS OF OUR BRAIN PATTERNS ARE PLACED INSIDE THE CEREBOTS! SO WE "BECOME" THE ROBOTS AND GO ANYWHERE!
AYE! AND SUFFER THE WORST HEADACHES KNOWN, FOR DAYS! I HATE THOSE THINGS!

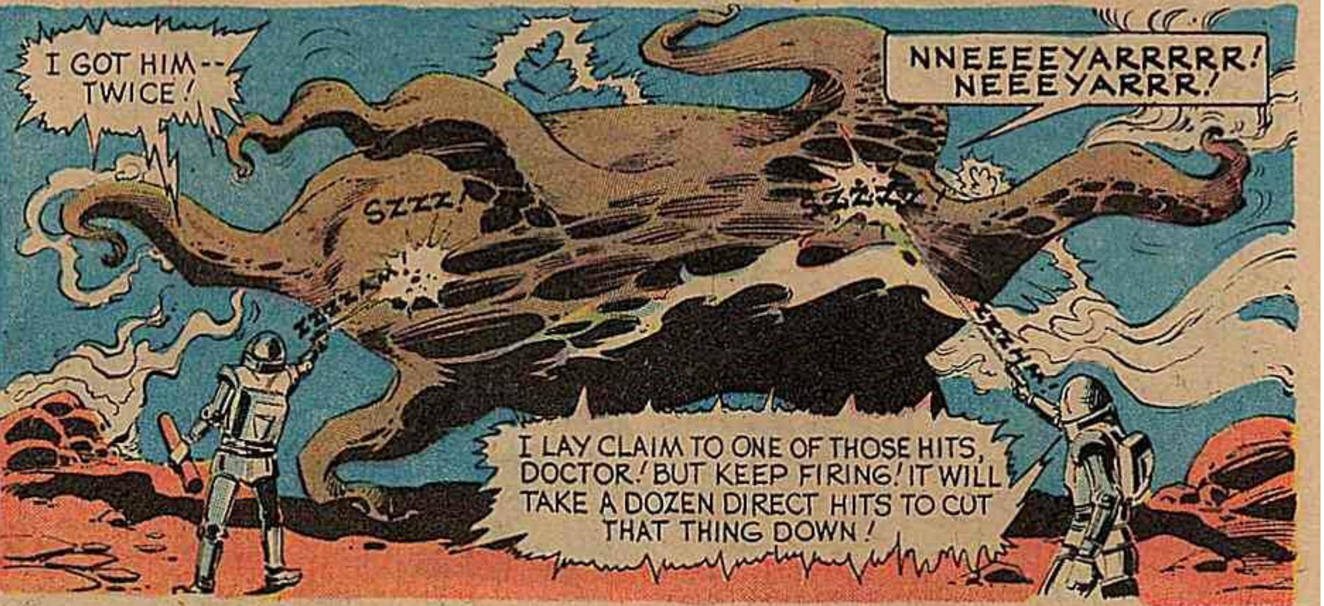

FEAR NOT, MR. SCOTT! YOU WILL ASSUME SHIP'S COMMAND WHILE DR. McCOY AND I ARE TEMPORARILY NON-FUNCTIONAL!
AHHH, SO THAT'S IT? AND YOU TWO GET ALL THE CREDIT FOR SAVING THE CAPTAIN'S NECK! FAWWWW!
AGHHH! I CAN'T EVEN BEAR TO WATCH THAT THING AT WORK!
ARRRRGH!
ARRRG!
ALL RIGHT, MR. SCOTT, PLACE BODIES IN LIFE-SUPPORT CABINET AT ONCE!
I KNOW ENOUGH TO DO THAT, SPOCK! GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH!
THE BRAIN SHOCK FROM THE ELECTRO-PROBER WILL KEEP THEM UNCONSCIOUS FOR HOURS! MEANWHILE, THEIR MIND DUPLICATES ARE ON THE WAY TO PLANET KIBO!

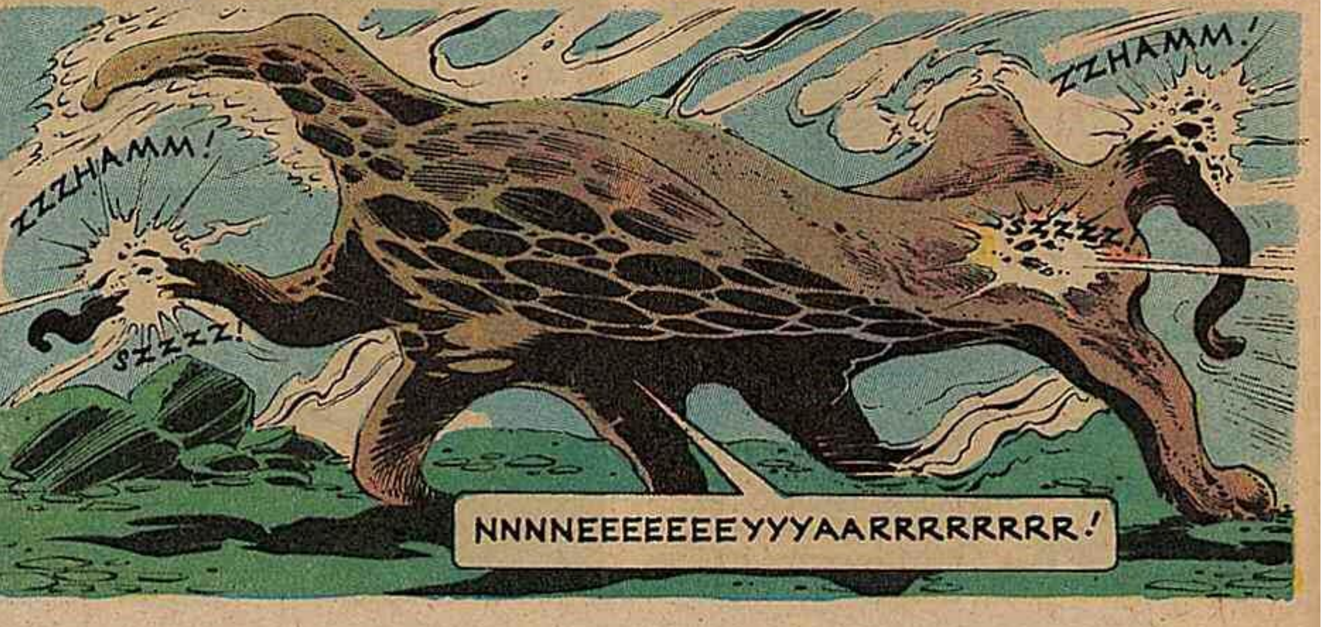

AT THAT MOMENT, THE NEW PERSONALITY OF CAPTAIN KIRK IS BUSY ON ANOTHER LEAD...
YES, IT IS EXCITING BEING SECRETARY TO VICE-CHAIRMAN FADO! AND IT WILL BE EVEN MORE SO WHEN HE SUCCEEDS THE SUPREME CHAIRMAN!
OH? I THOUGHT VICE-CHAIRMAN HAJARA WAS EQUALLY IN LINE!
YES, BUT SMASHING THE FERROUS SMUGGLERS AND INDICTING CAPTAIN KIRK WILL GIVE FADO THE ADVANTAGE! AND IT WAS ALL A LUCKY BREAK!
LUCK? TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT, ILANA! I'M QUITE INTERESTED!
THE TAPE OF KIRK AND THE PIRATE LEADER TOGETHER WAS ACCIDENTLY SHOT BY AN AMATEUR ON VACATION--A NURI JAKARZ!
AND HE TURNED IT OVER TO VICE-CHAIRMAN FADO? THIS *IS* A STROKE OF LUCK!
FOR *ME*!
SHORTLY AFTER...
BREAKING INTO NURI JAKARZ' HOME IS ANYTHING BUT LEGAL! BUT I'M MORE DESPERATE THAN FOOLISH --I HOPE!
N-J FILM EFFECTS, CO
AHHHHHH! MR. JAKARZ IS NO *AMATEUR* FILM MAKER! HE'S A PROFESSIONAL *SPECIAL EFFECTS* MAN! NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE!

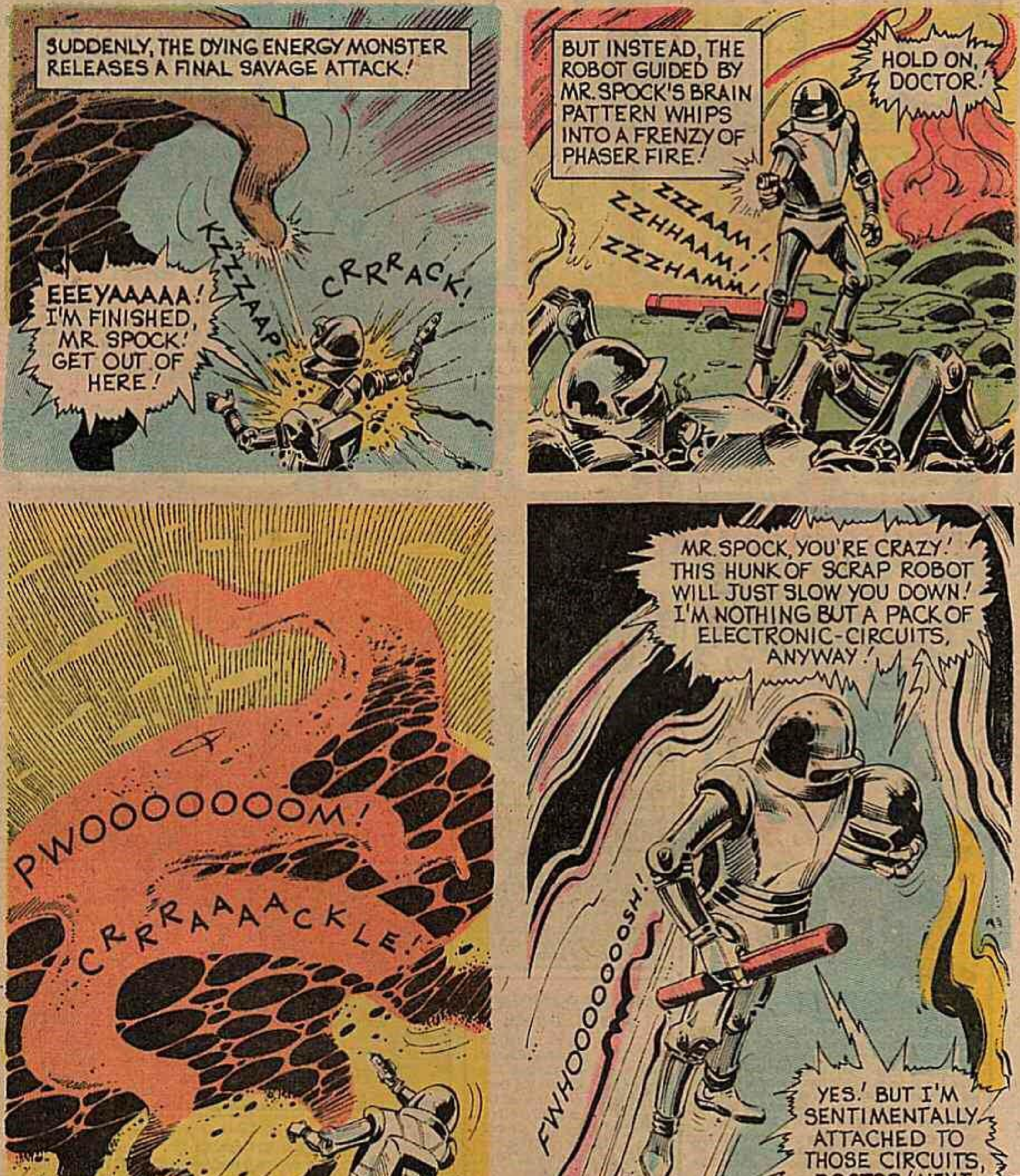

GOT TO WORK FAST! STILLER SAID THIS COSMETIC ALTERATION WILL COMPLETELY REVERT IN ANOTHER HOUR!
A MINIATURE OF THE LOST CITY OF ABDAR! YES, I SAW THE PRODUCTION IN WHICH IT WAS USED!
AND THE UNDERWATER WORLD OF LOKAURUK! THAT WAS ANOTHER MAMMOTH PRODUCTION! THIS JAKARZ FELLOW DOES WELL!
THAT MEANS HE SHOULD HAVE VERY ORDERLY FILES! WE'LL SEE!
A QUICK SEARCH OF THE FILES BRINGS SUCCESS..
THERE WAS ONE TAPE FILED UNDER EACH SUBJECT--"LIJI BRAGG, FERROUS SMUGGLER" AND "CAPTAIN KIRK, STARSHIP COMMANDER"! I'M RUNNING IN FANTASTIC LUCK!
SWIFTLY, KIRK INSERTS THE VIDEO-TAPE CARTRIDGES INTO THE STRANGE PROJECTOR..
THAT'S IT! NOW A FEW ADJUSTMENTS WILL ELECTRONICALLY MAT OUT THE UNWANTED AREAS -- AND THEN COMBINE THE SHOTS!
THAT'S IT! JAKARZ WAS PAID TO FAKE THE EVIDENCE AGAINST ME! BUT BY WHOM?

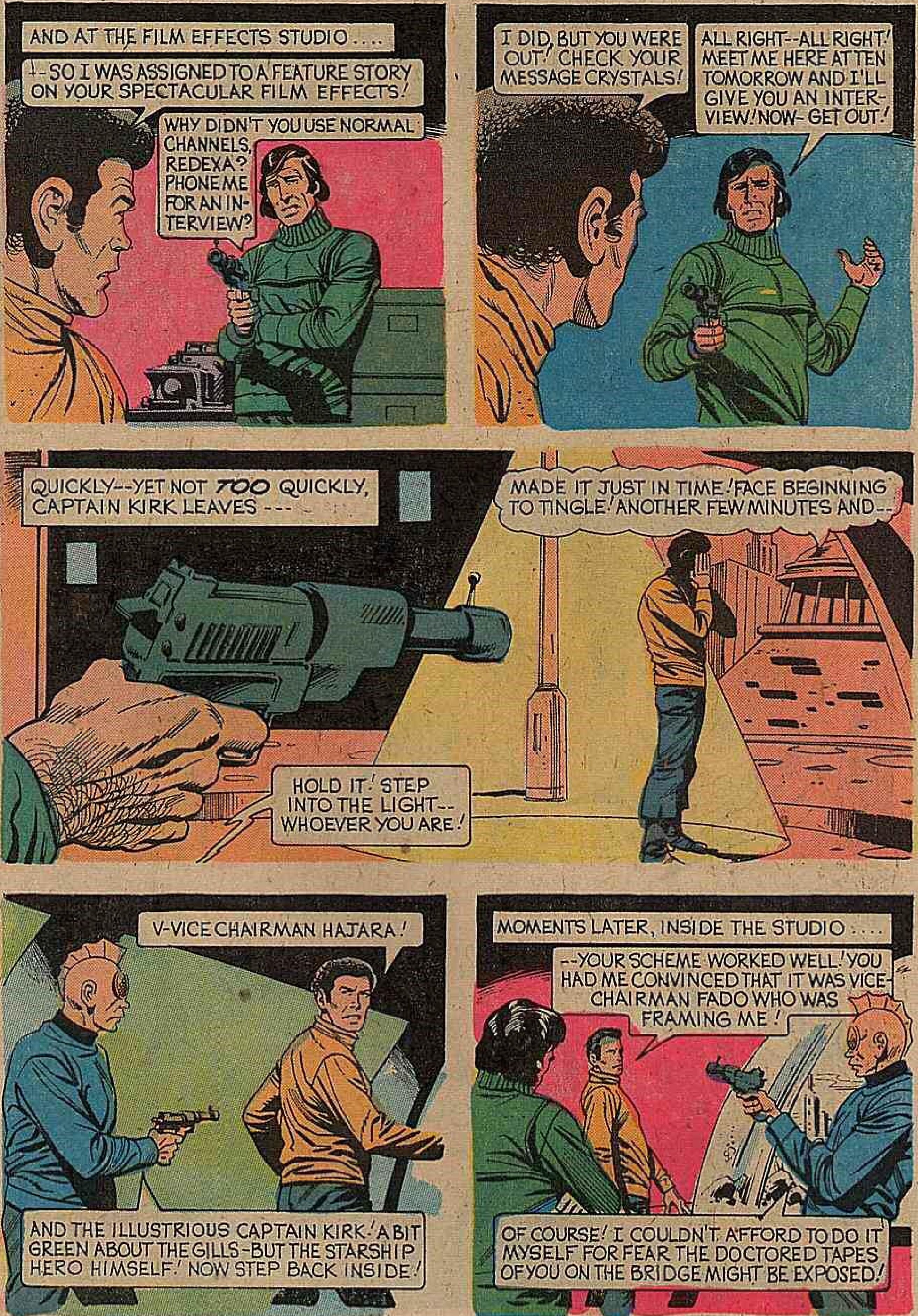

THESE TAPES WILL CLEAR ME! NOW TO GET AWAY--
STOP RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE! THERE'S A PHASER AT YOUR HEAD, READY TO BURN YOUR BRAINS OUT!
YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG, CHUM! I'M BEXEL REDEXA OF D-I-N, DRID INTERSTELLAR NEWS!
TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT, CHUM!
MEANWHILE, ON THE DEADLY SURFACE OF PLANET NDORA...
THAT MISSILE HAS A GUIDANCE SYSTEM. I'M HOMING IN ON IT NOW!
CRRAACKLE!
BEEP BEEP BEEP!
CRRZZZ
CRRRZZZZ
HOPE WE DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL HALF-WAY AROUND THIS WORLD TO FIND IT, MR. SPOCK!
SHORTLY, AS THE MISSILE SEARCH BEARS FRUIT...
HERE IT IS! MY GUESS IS IT IS FILLED WITH INCRIMINATING RECORD ON THE FERROUS SMUGGLING OPERATION!
AGREED! NOW LET'S HURRY BACK TO THE SHIP, DR. McCOY!
D-DON'T LOOK NOW, MR. SPOCK, BUT THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS WELCOMING US!
NNNGYACHHHH!

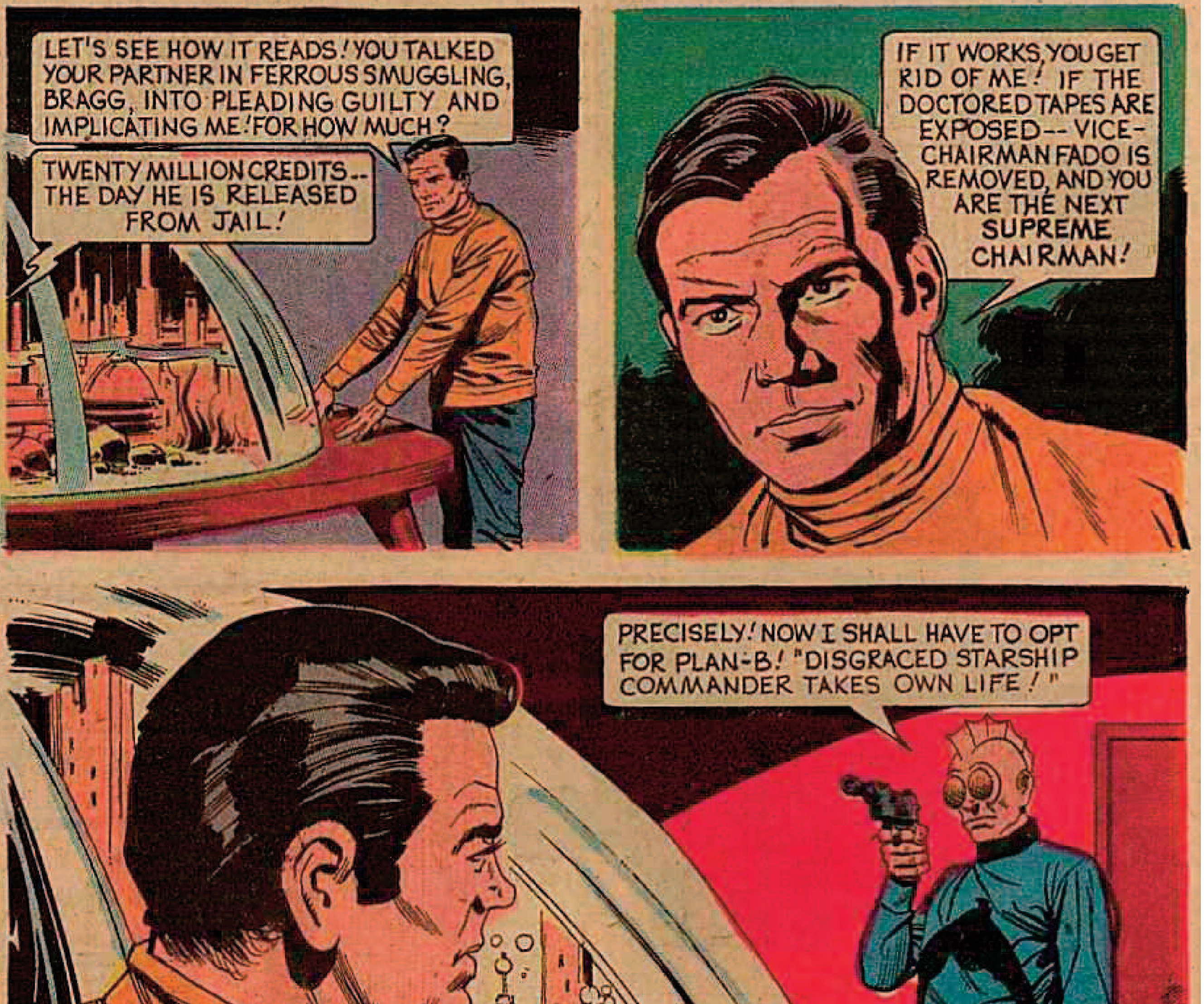

NNNNGYAACHHHHH!
CRRZZZ!
SNAP!
CRRK!
ONE OF THE ENERGY DRAGONS OF NDORA! I'D HEARD OF THEM-- BUT NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE ONE!
WE WON'T LIVE TO SEE ANYTHING ELSE IF WE DON'T STOP THAT THING *NOW*!

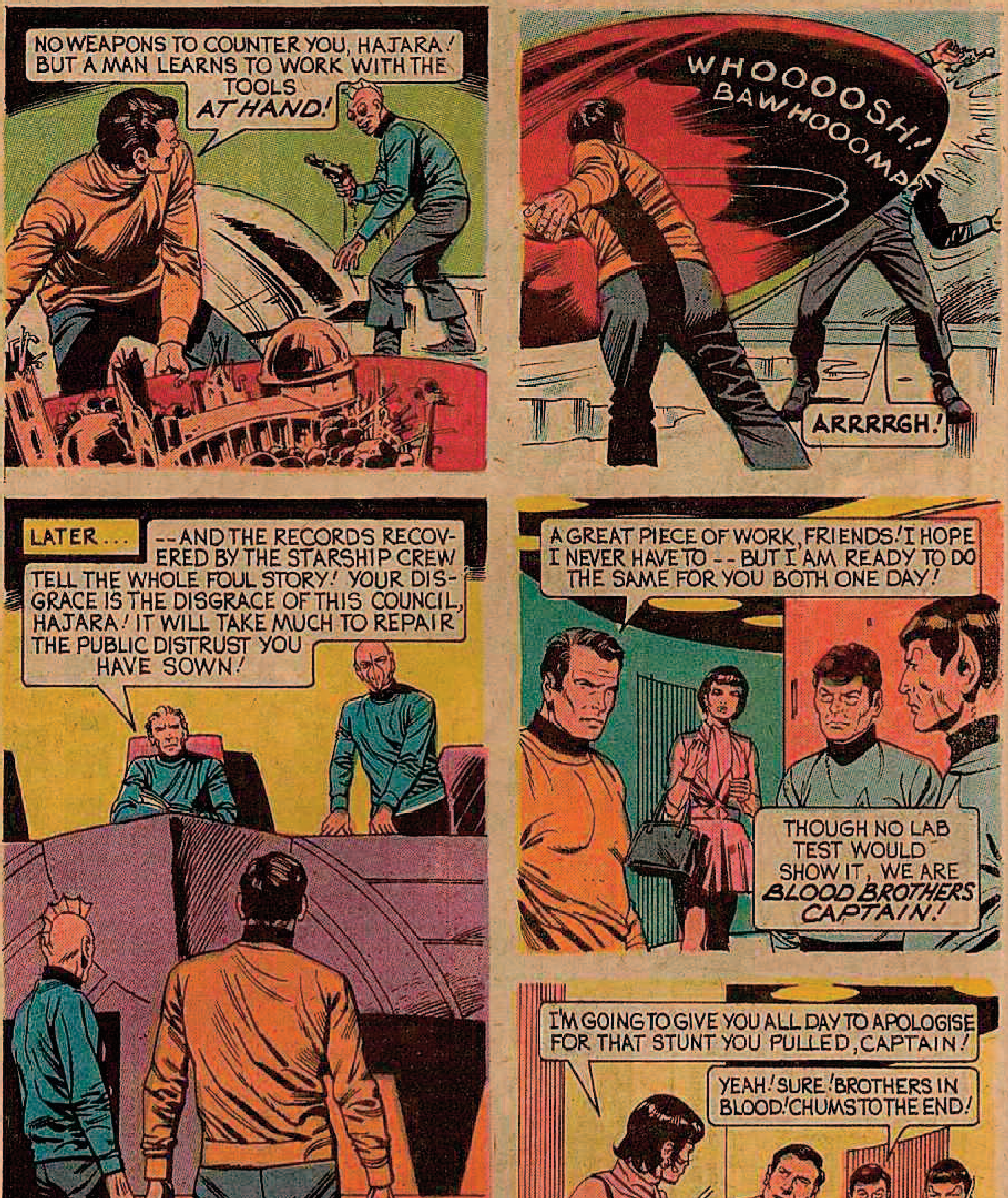

I GOT HIM-- TWICE!
NNEEEEYARRRRR! NEEEYARRR!
SZZZ!
SZZZZ!
ZZZHAMM!
ZZZHAMM!
I LAY CLAIM TO ONE OF THOSE HITS, DOCTOR! BUT KEEP FIRING! IT WILL TAKE A DOZEN DIRECT HITS TO CUT THAT THING DOWN!

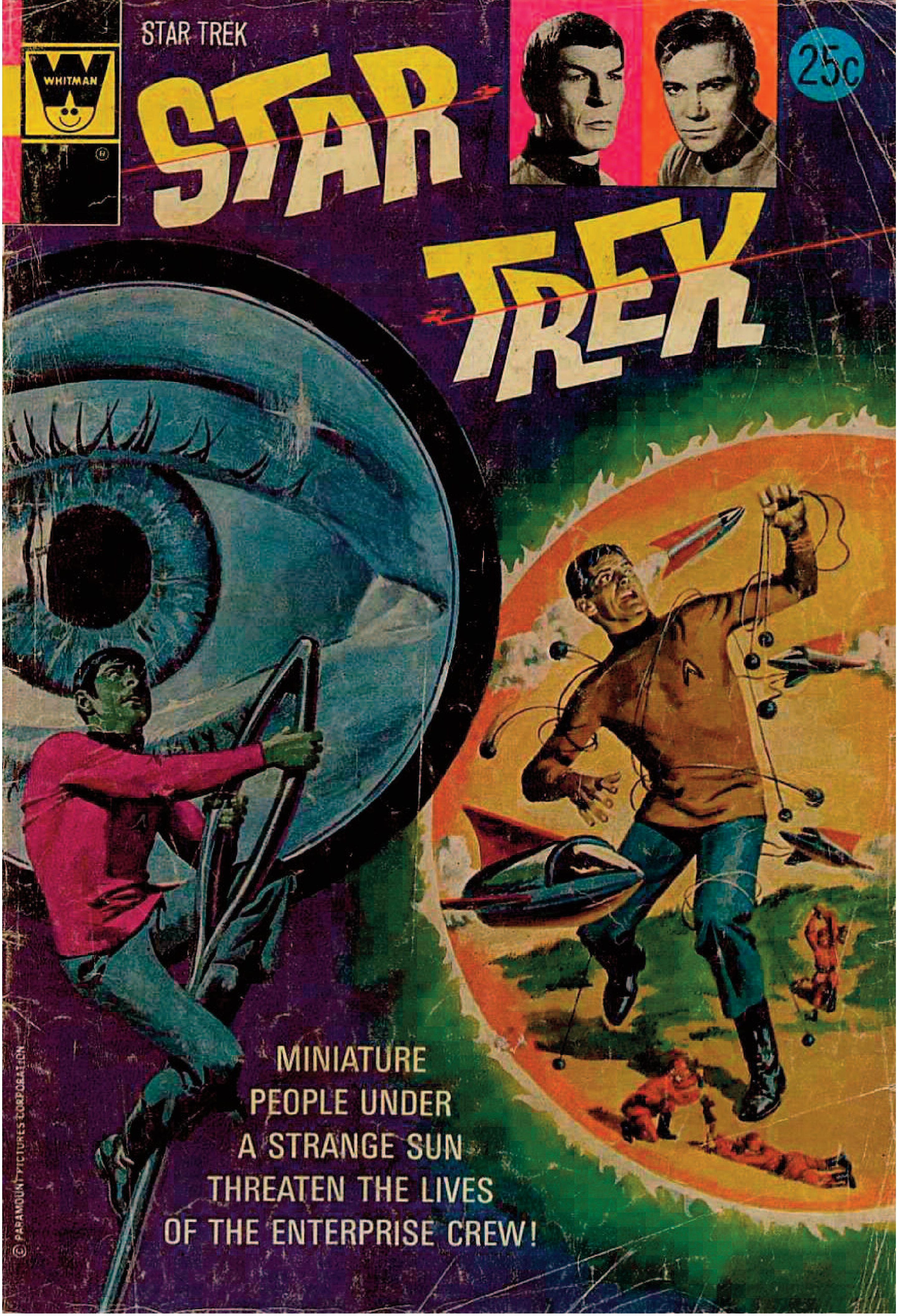

ZZHAMM!
ZZZHAMM!
SZZZZ!
SZZZZ!
NNNNEEEEEEEYYYAARRRRRRRR!


SUDDENLY, THE DYING ENERGY MONSTER RELEASES A FINAL SAVAGE ATTACK!
KZZZZAAP!
CRRRACK!
EEEYAAAAA! I'M FINISHED, MR. SPOCK! GET OUT OF HERE!
BUT INSTEAD, THE ROBOT GUIDED BY MR. SPOCK'S BRAIN PATTERN WHIPS INTO A FRENZY OF PHASER FIRE!
HOLD ON, DOCTOR!
ZZZAAM!
ZZHHAAM!
ZZZHAMM!
PWOOOOOOOM!
CRRRAAAACKLE!
MR. SPOCK, YOU'RE CRAZY! THIS HUNK OF SCRAP ROBOT WILL JUST SLOW YOU DOWN! I'M NOTHING BUT A PACK OF ELECTRONIC-CIRCUITS, ANYWAY!
FWHOOOOOOSH!
YES! BUT I'M SENTIMENTALLY ATTACHED TO THOSE CIRCUITS, DOCTOR! NEXT STOP-- THE ENTERPRISE!


AND AT THE FILM EFFECTS STUDIO....
--SO I WAS ASSIGNED TO A FEATURE STORY ON YOUR SPECTACULAR FILM EFFECTS!
WHY DIDN'T YOU USE NORMAL CHANNELS, REDEXA? PHONE ME FOR AN INTERVIEW?
I DID, BUT YOU WERE OUT! CHECK YOUR MESSAGE CRYSTALS!
ALL RIGHT--ALL RIGHT! MEET ME HERE AT TEN TOMORROW AND I'LL GIVE YOU AN INTERVIEW! NOW- GET OUT!
QUICKLY--YET NOT *TOO* QUICKLY, CAPTAIN KIRK LEAVES ---
MADE IT JUST IN TIME! FACE BEGINNING TO TINGLE! ANOTHER FEW MINUTES AND--
HOLD IT! STEP INTO THE LIGHT-- WHOEVER YOU ARE!
V-VICE CHAIRMAN HAJARA!
AND THE ILLUSTRIOUS CAPTAIN KIRK! A BIT GREEN ABOUT THE GILLS-BUT THE STARSHIP HERO HIMSELF! NOW STEP BACK INSIDE!
MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE THE STUDIO....
--YOUR SCHEME WORKED WELL! YOU HAD ME CONVINCED THAT IT WAS VICE-CHAIRMAN FADO WHO WAS FRAMING ME!
OF COURSE! I COULDN'T AFFORD TO DO IT MYSELF FOR FEAR THE DOCTORED TAPES OF YOU ON THE BRIDGE MIGHT BE EXPOSED!


LET'S SEE HOW IT READS! YOU TALKED YOUR PARTNER IN FERROUS SMUGGLING, BRAGG, INTO PLEADING GUILTY AND IMPLICATING ME! FOR HOW MUCH?
TWENTY MILLION CREDITS-- THE DAY HE IS RELEASED FROM JAIL!
IF IT WORKS, YOU GET RID OF ME! IF THE DOCTORED TAPES ARE EXPOSED-- VICE-CHAIRMAN FADO IS REMOVED, AND YOU ARE THE NEXT SUPREME CHAIRMAN!
PRECISELY! NOW I SHALL HAVE TO OPT FOR PLAN-B! "DISGRACED STARSHIP COMMANDER TAKES OWN LIFE!"
BUT, UNDER COVER OF THE INTENSE DIALOGUE, CAPTAIN KIRK POSITIONS HIMSELF FOR A DESPERATE GAMBLE!
ARRRRGH!
SPLOOOOOOOOSH!


NO WEAPONS TO COUNTER YOU, HAJARA! BUT A MAN LEARNS TO WORK WITH THE TOOLS *AT HAND!*
WHOOOOOSH! BAWHOOOMP!
ARRRRGH!
LATER . . .
--AND THE RECORDS RECOVERED BY THE STARSHIP CREW TELL THE WHOLE FOUL STORY! YOUR DISGRACE IS THE DISGRACE OF THIS COUNCIL, HAJARA! IT WILL TAKE MUCH TO REPAIR THE PUBLIC DISTRUST YOU HAVE SOWN!
A GREAT PIECE OF WORK, FRIENDS! I HOPE I NEVER HAVE TO -- BUT I AM READY TO DO THE SAME FOR YOU BOTH ONE DAY!
THOUGH NO LAB TEST WOULD SHOW IT, WE ARE *BLOOD BROTHERS CAPTAIN!*
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU ALL DAY TO APOLOGISE FOR THAT STUNT YOU PULLED, CAPTAIN!
YEAH! SURE! BROTHERS IN BLOOD! CHUMS TO THE END!
WELL THEN, DOCTOR --I GUESS THERE ARE SOME THINGS EVEN BROTHERS DON'T SHARE!
THE END


WHITMAN
STAR TREK
STAR TREK
25c
MINIATURE
PEOPLE UNDER
A STRANGE SUN
THREATEN THE LIVES
OF THE ENTERPRISE CREW!
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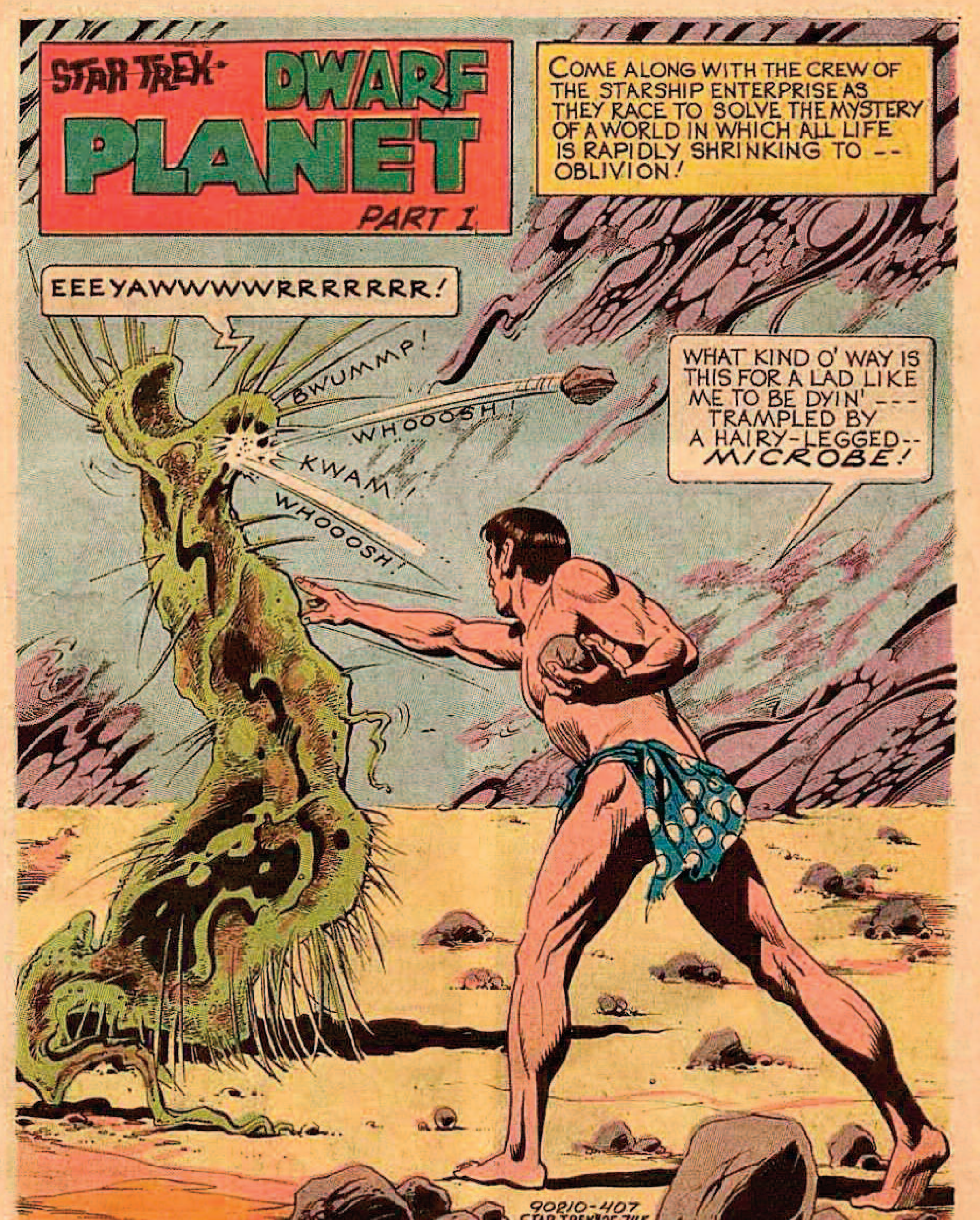
STAR TREK - DWARF PLANET
PART 1
COME ALONG WITH THE CREW OF THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE AS THEY RACE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF A WORLD IN WHICH ALL LIFE IS RAPIDLY SHRINKING TO -- OBLIVION!
EEEYAWWWWRRRRRRR!
BWUMMP!
WHOOOSH!
KWAM!
WHOOOOSH!
WHAT KIND O' WAY IS THIS FOR A LAD LIKE ME TO BE DYIN' --- TRAMPLED BY A HAIRY-LEGGED-- MICROBE!
90210-407
STAR TREK 25-745

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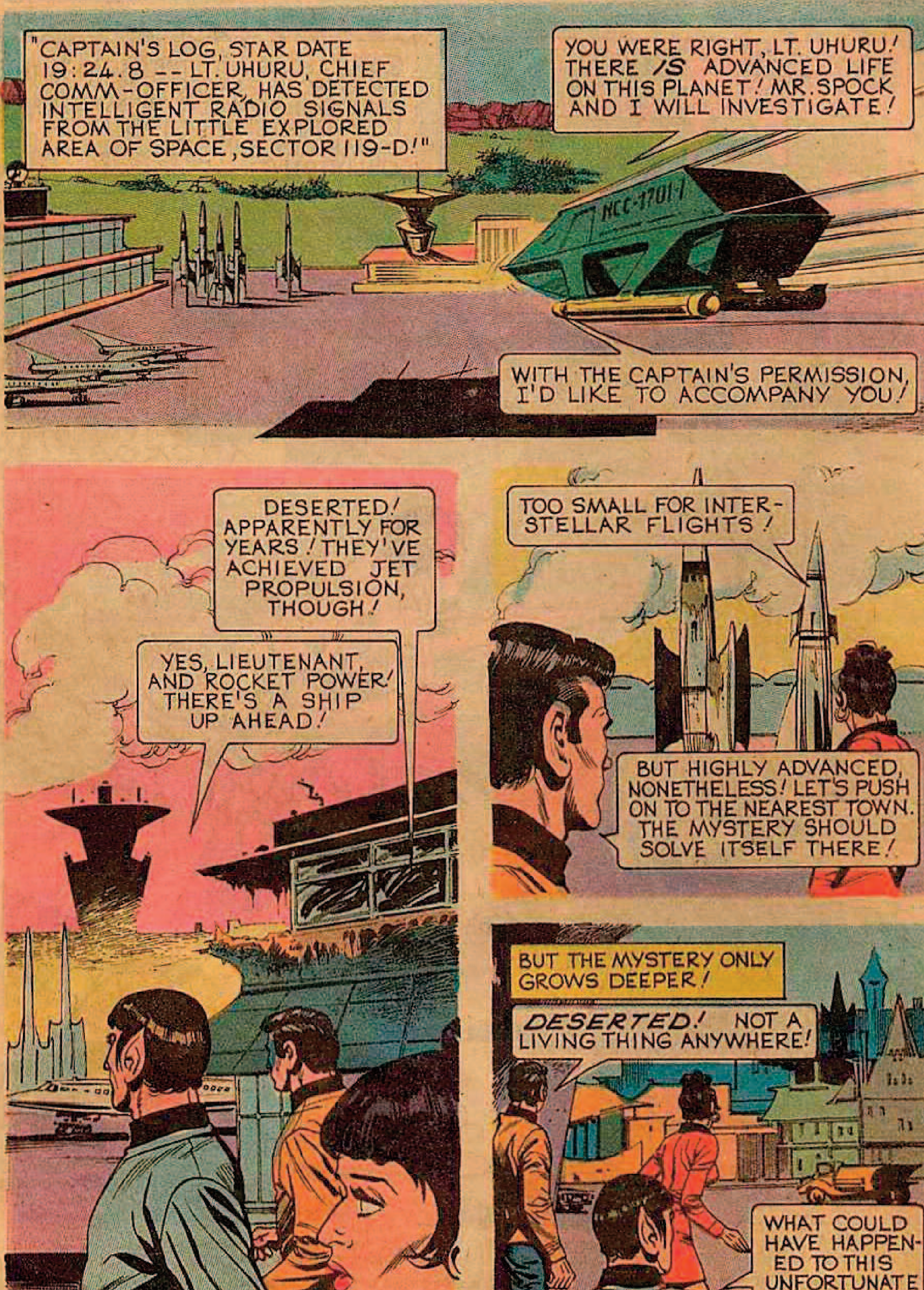
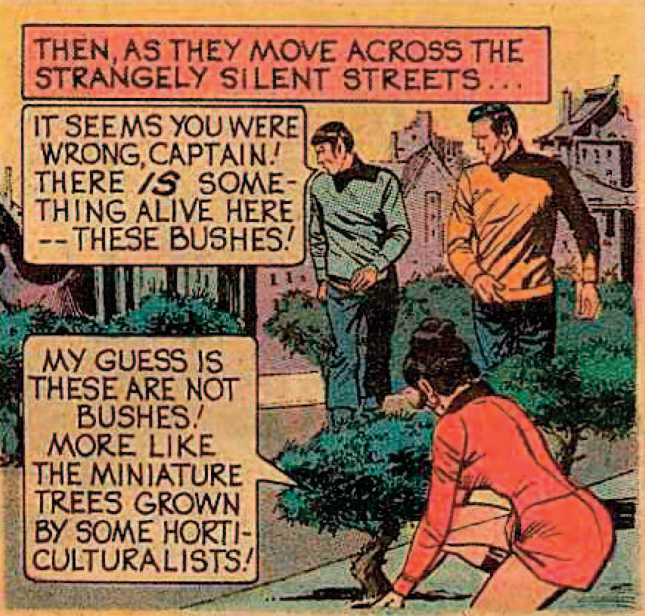
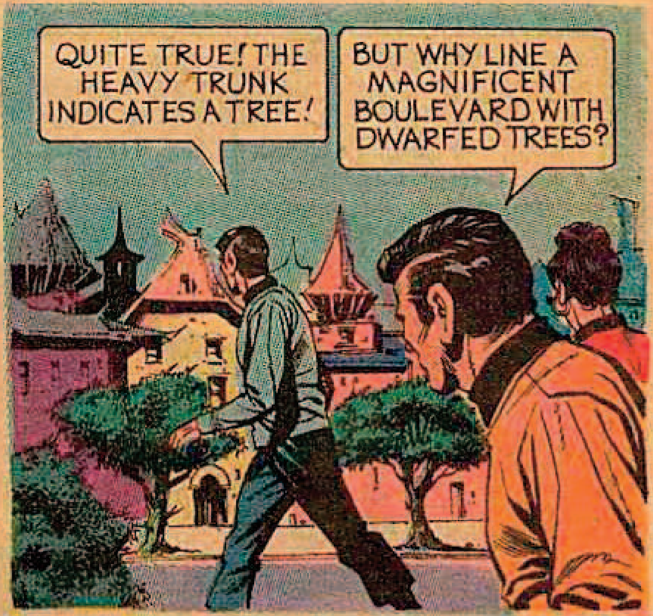
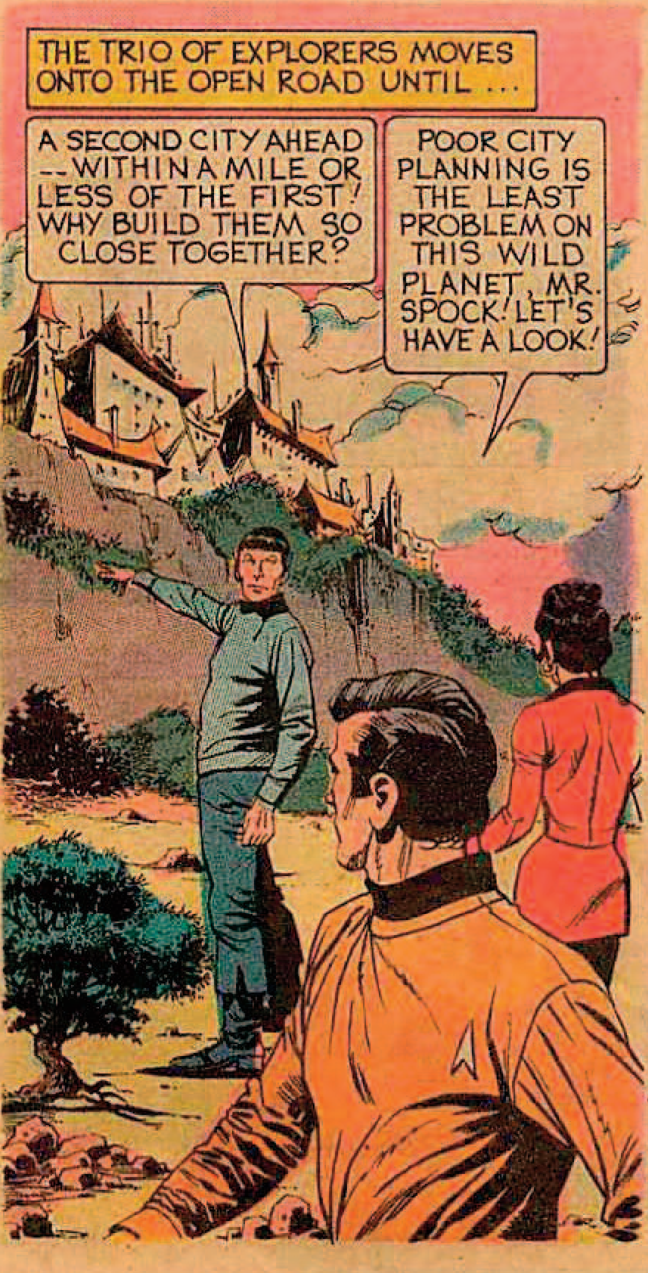
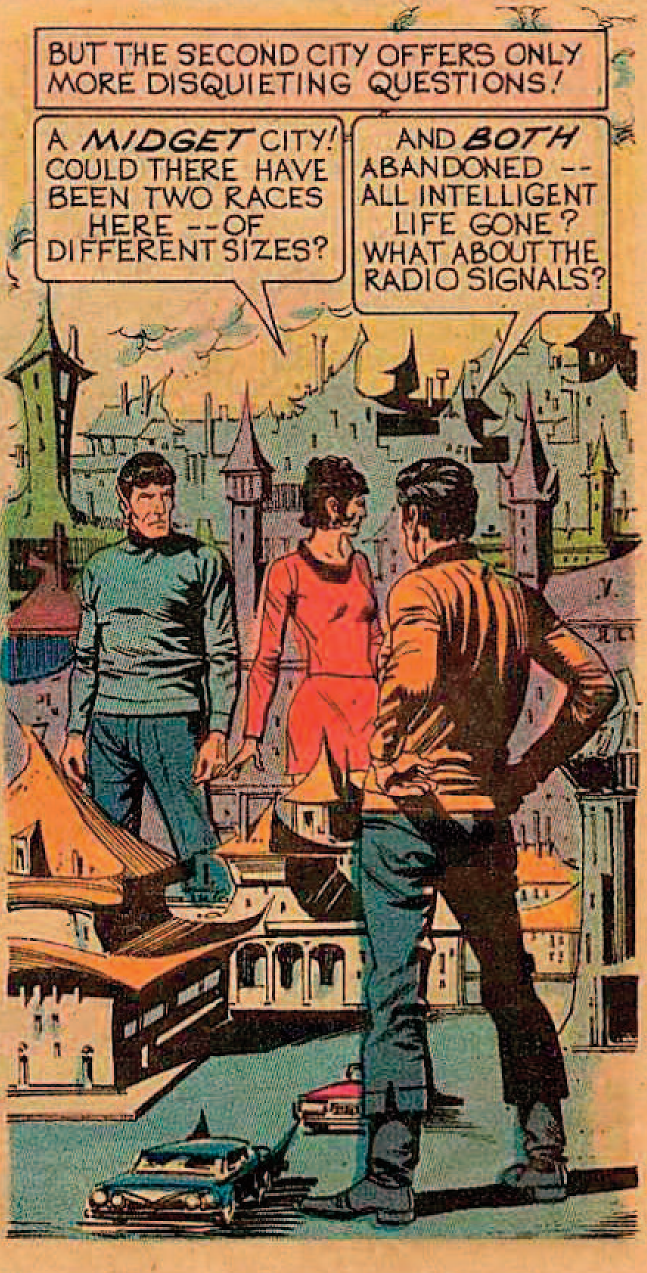
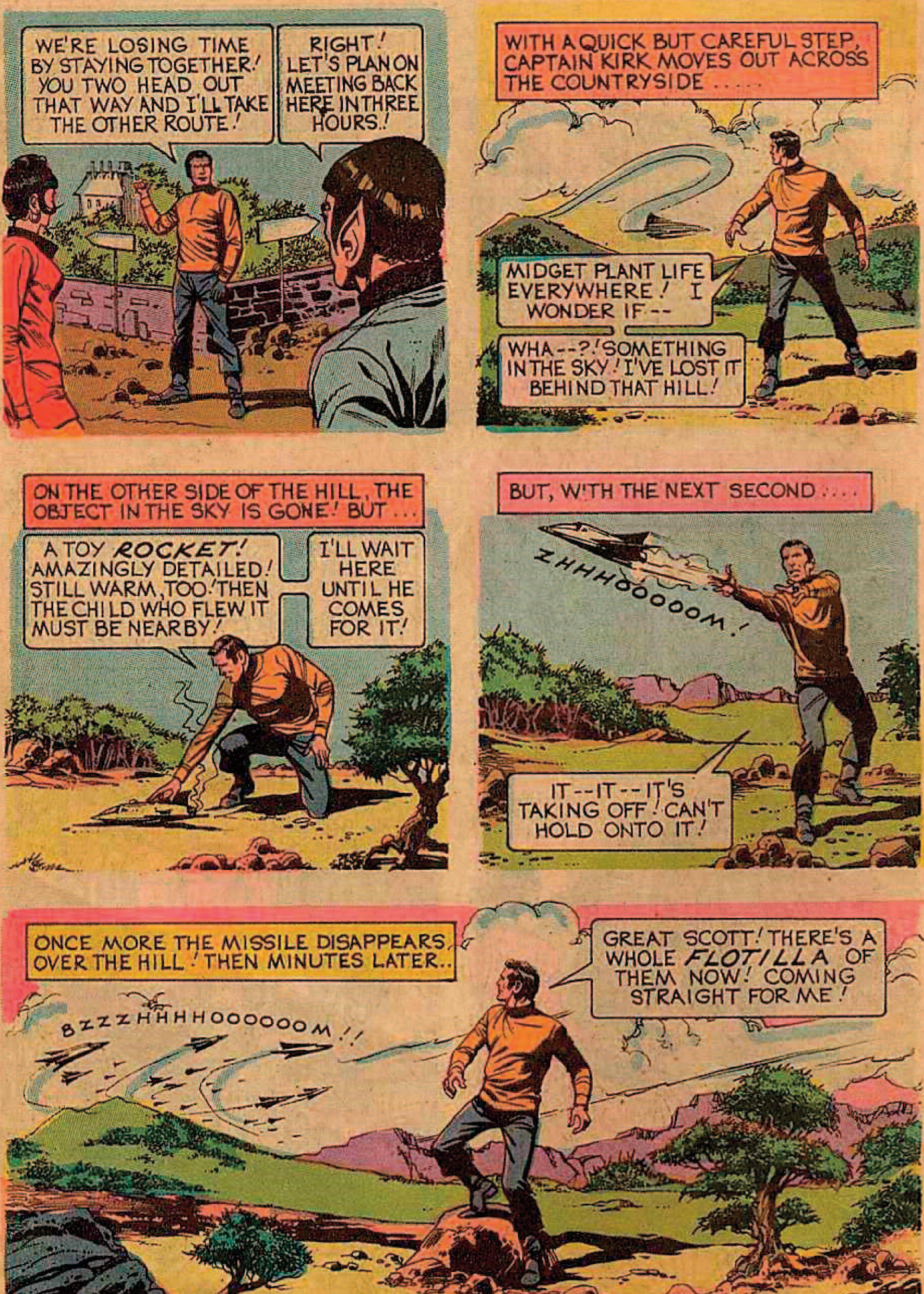

"CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 19:24.8 -- LT. UHURU, CHIEF COMM-OFFICER, HAS DETECTED INTELLIGENT RADIO SIGNALS FROM THE LITTLE EXPLORED AREA OF SPACE, SECTOR 119-D!"
YOU WERE RIGHT, LT. UHURU! THERE *IS* ADVANCED LIFE ON THIS PLANET! MR. SPOCK AND I WILL INVESTIGATE!
NCC-1701-7
WITH THE CAPTAIN'S PERMISSION, I'D LIKE TO ACCOMPANY YOU!
DESERTED! APPARENTLY FOR YEARS! THEY'VE ACHIEVED JET PROPULSION, THOUGH!
YES, LIEUTENANT, AND ROCKET POWER! THERE'S A SHIP UP AHEAD!
TOO SMALL FOR INTERSTELLAR FLIGHTS!
BUT HIGHLY ADVANCED, NONETHELESS! LET'S PUSH ON TO THE NEAREST TOWN. THE MYSTERY SHOULD SOLVE ITSELF THERE!
BUT THE MYSTERY ONLY GROWS DEEPER!
DESERTED! NOT A LIVING THING ANYWHERE!
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THIS UNFORTUNATE WORLD?

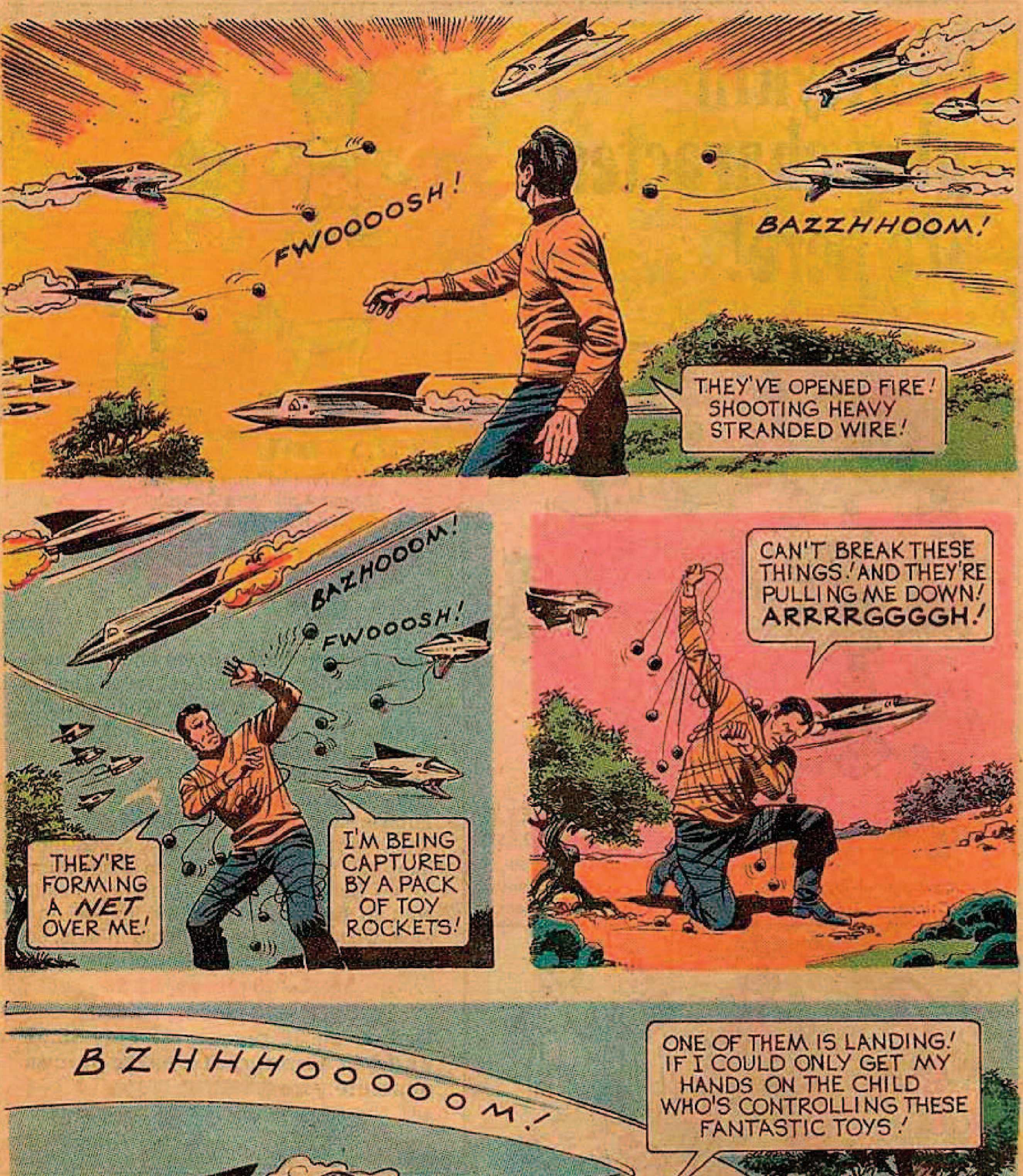

THEN, AS THEY MOVE ACROSS THE STRANGELY SILENT STREETS . . .
IT SEEMS YOU WERE WRONG, CAPTAIN! THERE *IS* SOMETHING ALIVE HERE -- THESE BUSHES!
MY GUESS IS THESE ARE NOT BUSHES! MORE LIKE THE MINIATURE TREES GROWN BY SOME HORTICULTURALISTS!

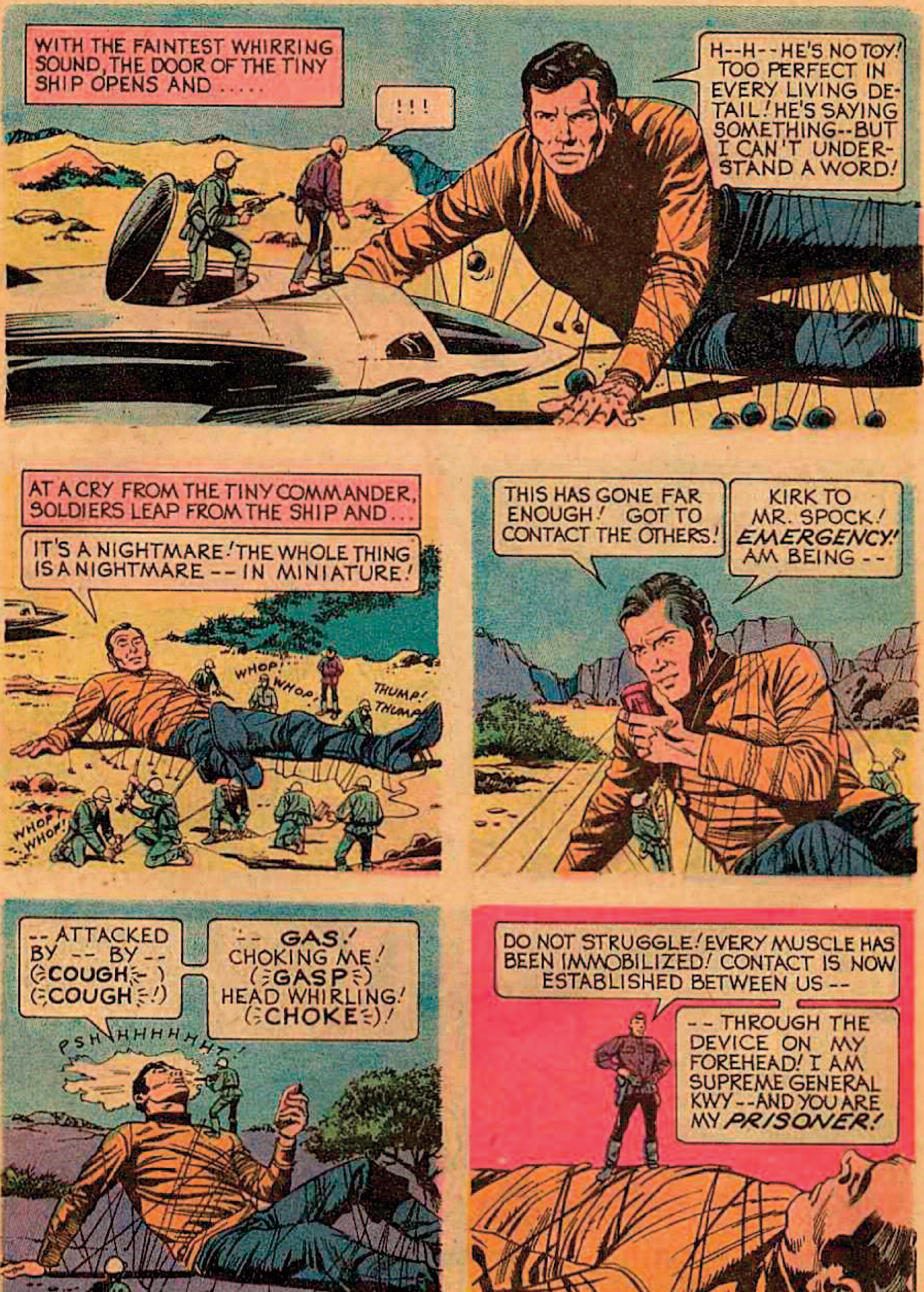

QUITE TRUE! THE HEAVY TRUNK INDICATES A TREE!
BUT WHY LINE A MAGNIFICENT BOULEVARD WITH DWARFED TREES?

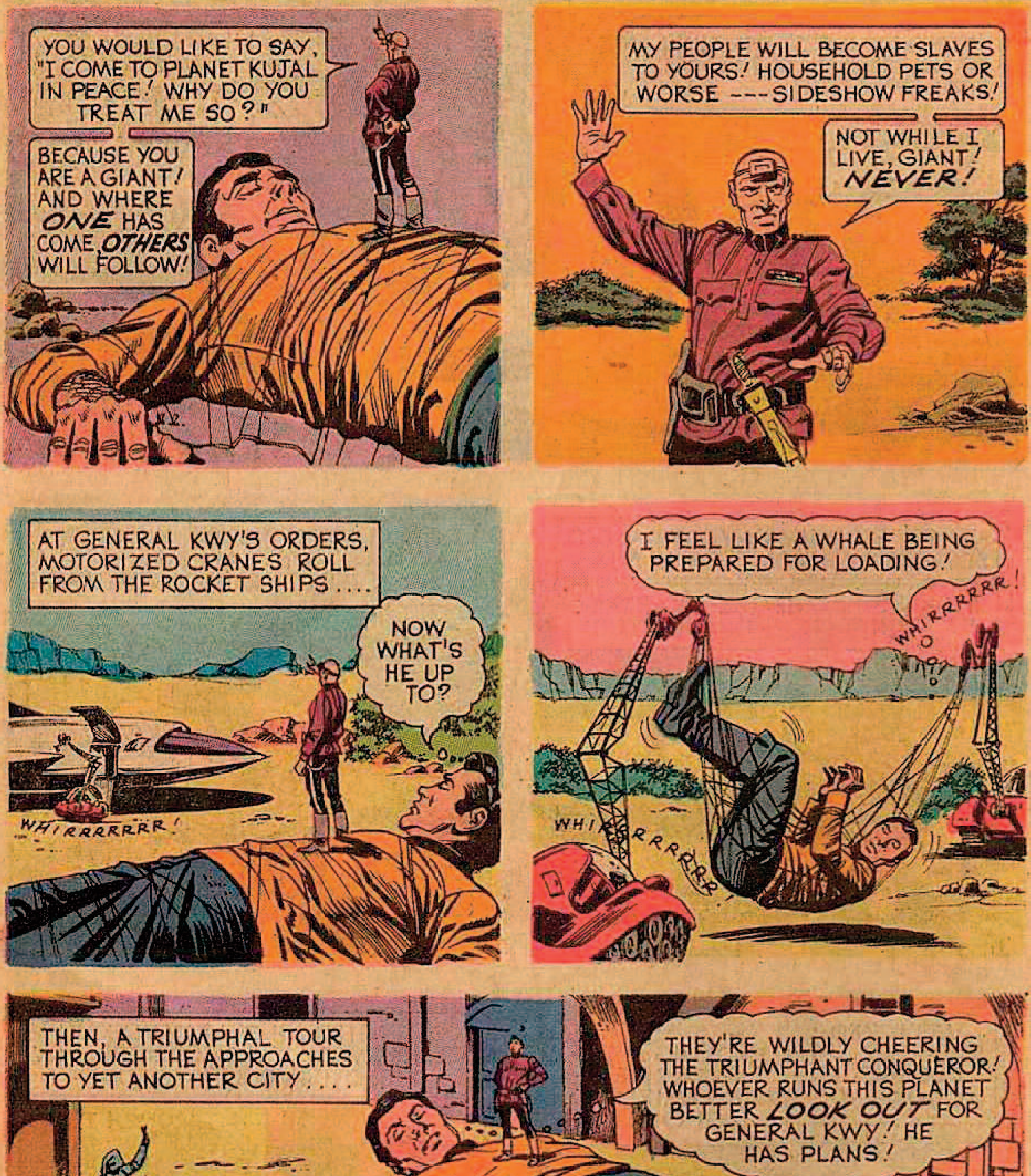

THE TRIO OF EXPLORERS MOVES ONTO THE OPEN ROAD UNTIL . . .
A SECOND CITY AHEAD -- WITHIN A MILE OR LESS OF THE FIRST! WHY BUILD THEM SO CLOSE TOGETHER?
POOR CITY PLANNING IS THE LEAST PROBLEM ON THIS WILD PLANET, MR. SPOCK! LET'S HAVE A LOOK!

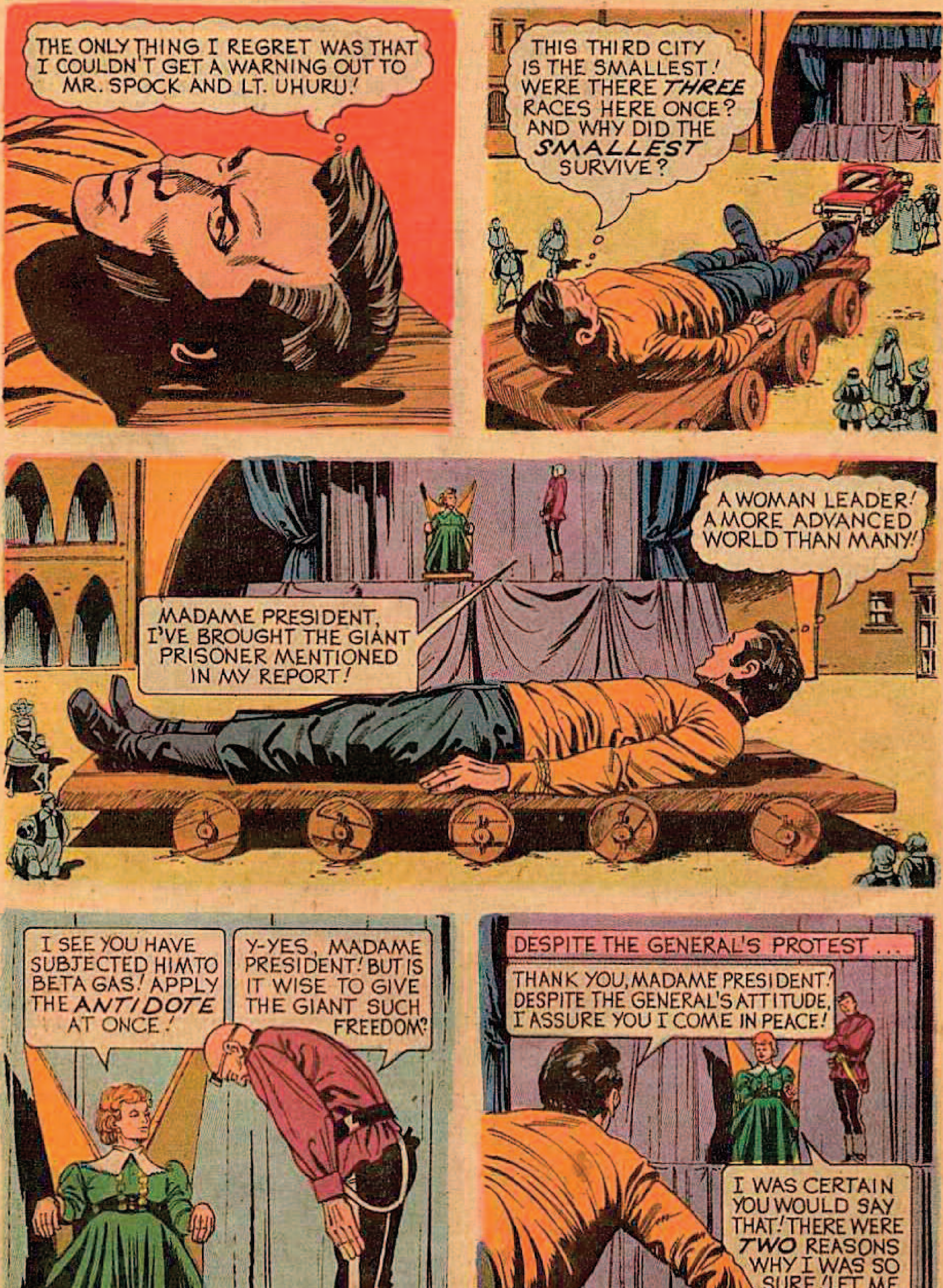

BUT THE SECOND CITY OFFERS ONLY MORE DISQUIETING QUESTIONS!
A *MIDGET* CITY! COULD THERE HAVE BEEN TWO RACES HERE -- OF DIFFERENT SIZES?
AND *BOTH* ABANDONED -- ALL INTELLIGENT LIFE GONE? WHAT ABOUT THE RADIO SIGNALS?

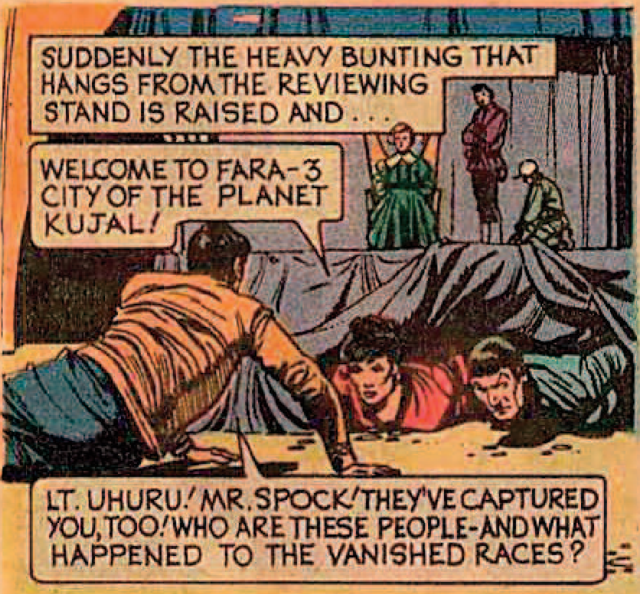

WE'RE LOSING TIME BY STAYING TOGETHER! YOU TWO HEAD OUT THAT WAY AND I'LL TAKE THE OTHER ROUTE!
RIGHT! LET'S PLAN ON MEETING BACK HERE IN THREE HOURS!
WITH A QUICK BUT CAREFUL STEP, CAPTAIN KIRK MOVES OUT ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE .....
MIDGET PLANT LIFE EVERYWHERE! I WONDER IF --
WHA--?! SOMETHING IN THE SKY! I'VE LOST IT BEHIND THAT HILL!
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL, THE OBJECT IN THE SKY IS GONE! BUT ...
A TOY ROCKET! AMAZINGLY DETAILED! STILL WARM, TOO! THEN THE CHILD WHO FLEW IT MUST BE NEARBY!
I'LL WAIT HERE UNTIL HE COMES FOR IT!
BUT, WITH THE NEXT SECOND ....
ZHHHOOOOOM!
IT--IT--IT'S TAKING OFF! CAN'T HOLD ONTO IT!
ONCE MORE THE MISSILE DISAPPEARS OVER THE HILL! THEN MINUTES LATER..
BZZZHHHHOOOOOOM!!
GREAT SCOTT! THERE'S A WHOLE FLOTILLA OF THEM NOW! COMING STRAIGHT FOR ME!

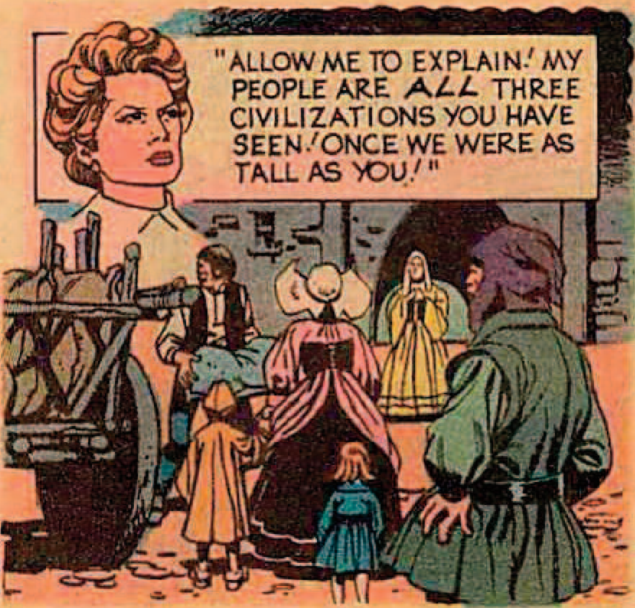

FWOOOOSH!
BAZZHHOOM!
THEY'VE OPENED FIRE! SHOOTING HEAVY STRANDED WIRE!
BAZHOOOM!
FWOOOSH!
THEY'RE FORMING A *NET* OVER ME!
I'M BEING CAPTURED BY A PACK OF TOY ROCKETS!
CAN'T BREAK THESE THINGS! AND THEY'RE PULLING ME DOWN! **ARRRRGGGGH!**
BZHHHOOOOOM!
ONE OF THEM IS LANDING! IF I COULD ONLY GET MY HANDS ON THE CHILD WHO'S CONTROLLING THESE FANTASTIC TOYS!

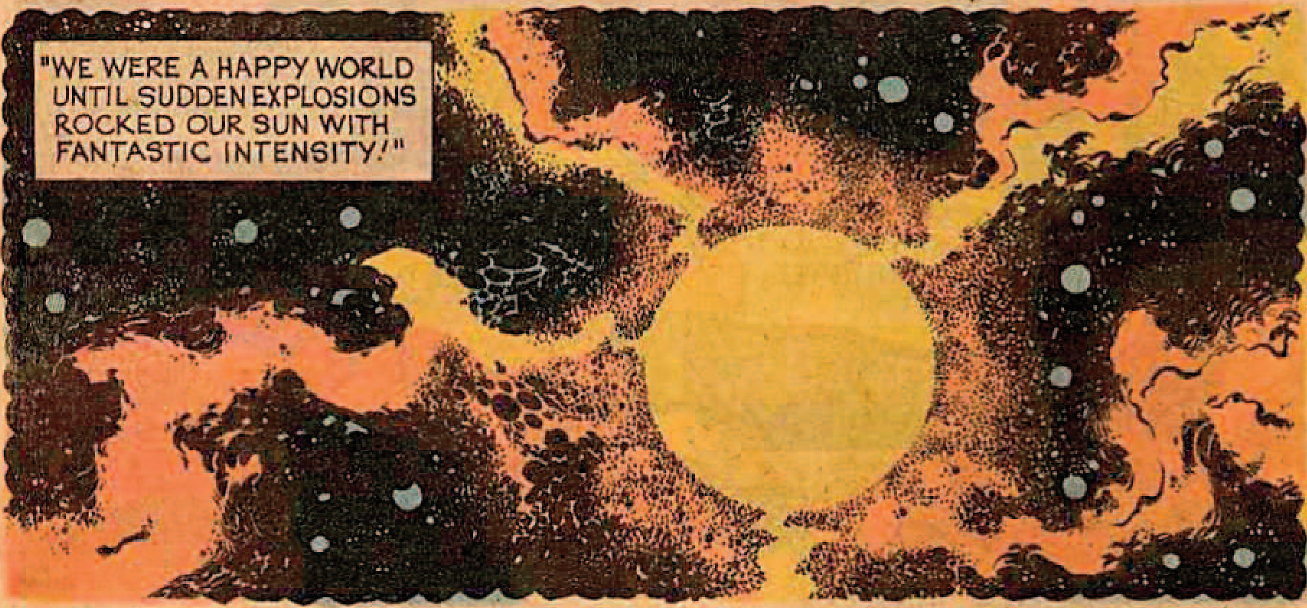

WITH THE FAINTEST WHIRRING SOUND, THE DOOR OF THE TINY SHIP OPENS AND .....
!!!
H--H--HE'S NO TOY! TOO PERFECT IN EVERY LIVING DETAIL! HE'S SAYING SOMETHING--BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD!
AT A CRY FROM THE TINY COMMANDER, SOLDIERS LEAP FROM THE SHIP AND...
IT'S A NIGHTMARE! THE WHOLE THING IS A NIGHTMARE -- IN MINIATURE!
WHOP! WHOP!
THUMP! THUMP!
WHOP! WHOP!
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH! GOT TO CONTACT THE OTHERS!
KIRK TO MR. SPOCK! EMERGENCY! AM BEING --
-- ATTACKED BY -- BY -- (COUGH) (COUGH!)
-- GAS! CHOKING ME! (GASP) HEAD WHIRLING! (CHOKE)!
PSHHHHHHHHT!
DO NOT STRUGGLE! EVERY MUSCLE HAS BEEN IMMOBILIZED! CONTACT IS NOW ESTABLISHED BETWEEN US --
-- THROUGH THE DEVICE ON MY FOREHEAD! I AM SUPREME GENERAL KWY -- AND YOU ARE MY PRISONER!

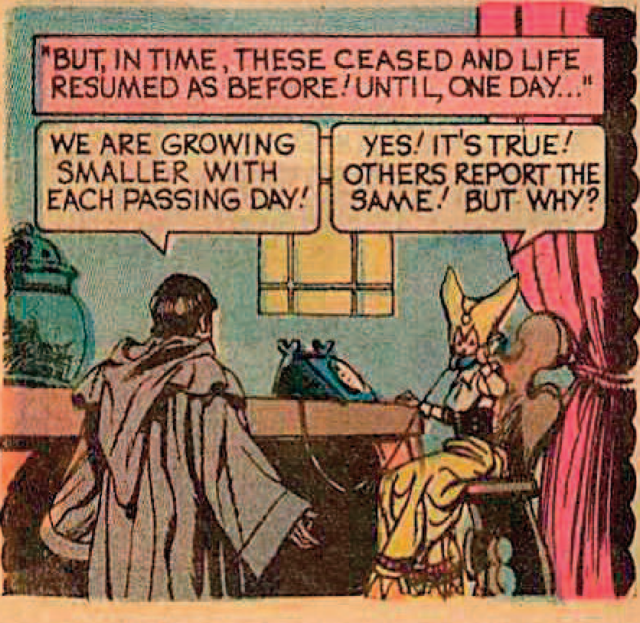

YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY, "I COME TO PLANET KUJAL IN PEACE! WHY DO YOU TREAT ME SO?"
BECAUSE YOU ARE A GIANT! AND WHERE *ONE* HAS COME *OTHERS* WILL FOLLOW!
MY PEOPLE WILL BECOME SLAVES TO YOURS! HOUSEHOLD PETS OR WORSE --- SIDESHOW FREAKS!
NOT WHILE I LIVE, GIANT! *NEVER!*
AT GENERAL KWY'S ORDERS, MOTORIZED CRANES ROLL FROM THE ROCKET SHIPS ....
NOW WHAT'S HE UP TO?
WHIRRRRRRR!
I FEEL LIKE A WHALE BEING PREPARED FOR LOADING!
WHIRRRRRR!
WHIRRRRRRR!
THEN, A TRIUMPHAL TOUR THROUGH THE APPROACHES TO YET ANOTHER CITY....
THEY'RE WILDLY CHEERING THE TRIUMPHANT CONQUEROR! WHOEVER RUNS THIS PLANET BETTER *LOOK OUT* FOR GENERAL KWY! HE HAS PLANS!

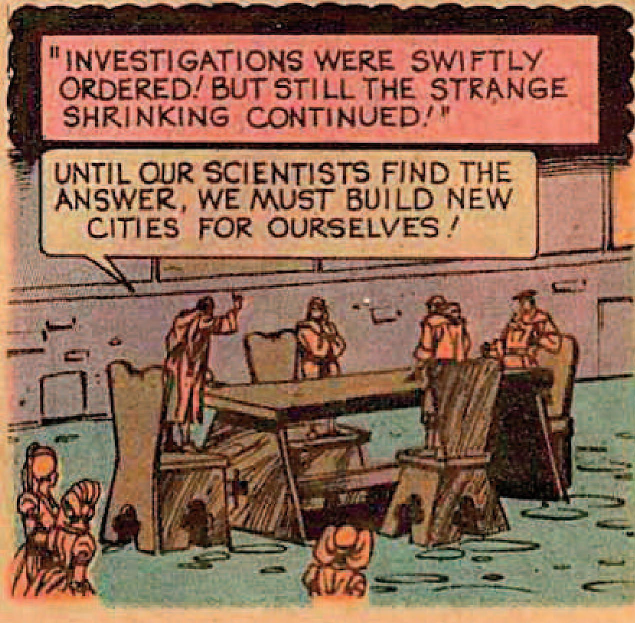

THE ONLY THING I REGRET WAS THAT I COULDN'T GET A WARNING OUT TO MR. SPOCK AND LT. UHURU!
THIS THIRD CITY IS THE SMALLEST! WERE THERE *THREE* RACES HERE ONCE? AND WHY DID THE *SMALLEST* SURVIVE?
A WOMAN LEADER! A MORE ADVANCED WORLD THAN MANY!
MADAME PRESIDENT, I'VE BROUGHT THE GIANT PRISONER MENTIONED IN MY REPORT!
I SEE YOU HAVE SUBJECTED HIM TO BETA GAS! APPLY THE *ANTIDOTE* AT ONCE!
Y-YES, MADAME PRESIDENT! BUT IS IT WISE TO GIVE THE GIANT SUCH FREEDOM?
DESPITE THE GENERAL'S PROTEST ...
THANK YOU, MADAME PRESIDENT! DESPITE THE GENERAL'S ATTITUDE, I ASSURE YOU I COME IN PEACE!
I WAS CERTAIN YOU WOULD SAY THAT! THERE WERE *TWO* REASONS WHY I WAS SO SURE! LET ME *SHOW* YOU!

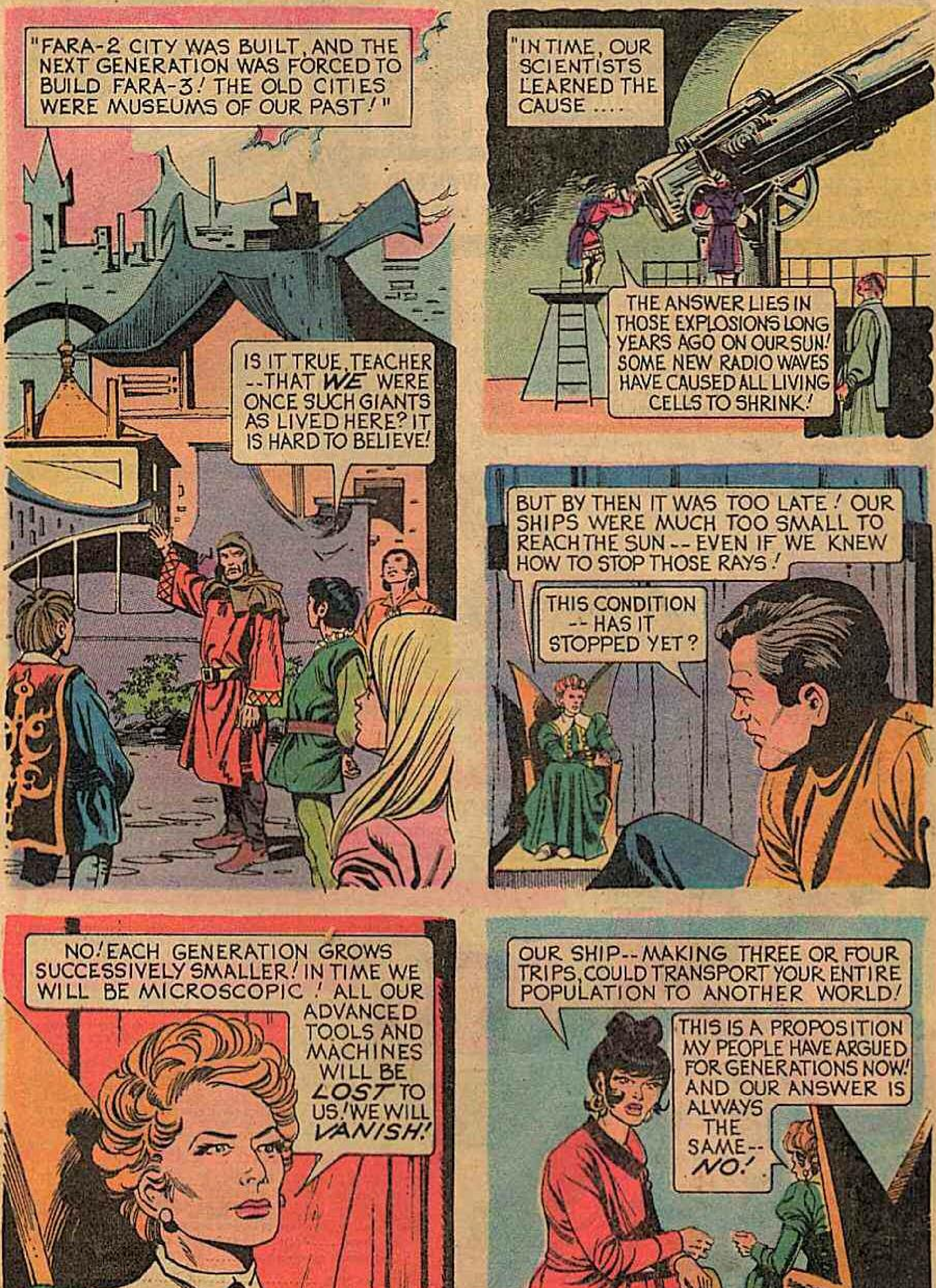

SUDDENLY THE HEAVY BUNTING THAT HANGS FROM THE REVIEWING STAND IS RAISED AND . . .
WELCOME TO FARA-3 CITY OF THE PLANET KUJAL!
LT. UHURU! MR. SPOCK! THEY'VE CAPTURED YOU, TOO! WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE-AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE VANISHED RACES?

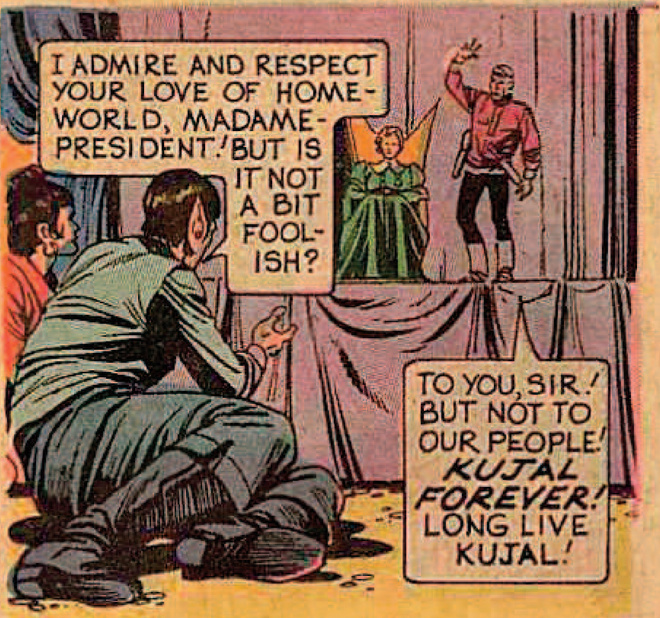

"ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN! MY PEOPLE ARE ALL THREE CIVILIZATIONS YOU HAVE SEEN! ONCE WE WERE AS TALL AS YOU!"

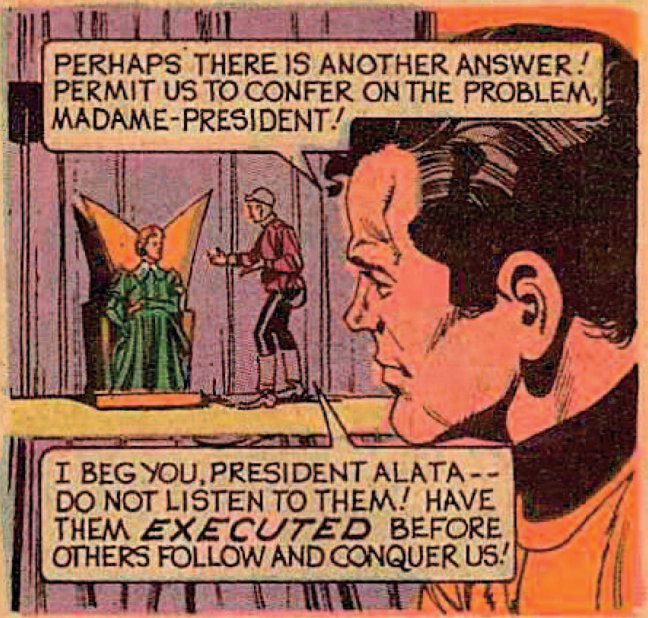

"WE WERE A HAPPY WORLD UNTIL SUDDEN EXPLOSIONS ROCKED OUR SUN WITH FANTASTIC INTENSITY!"

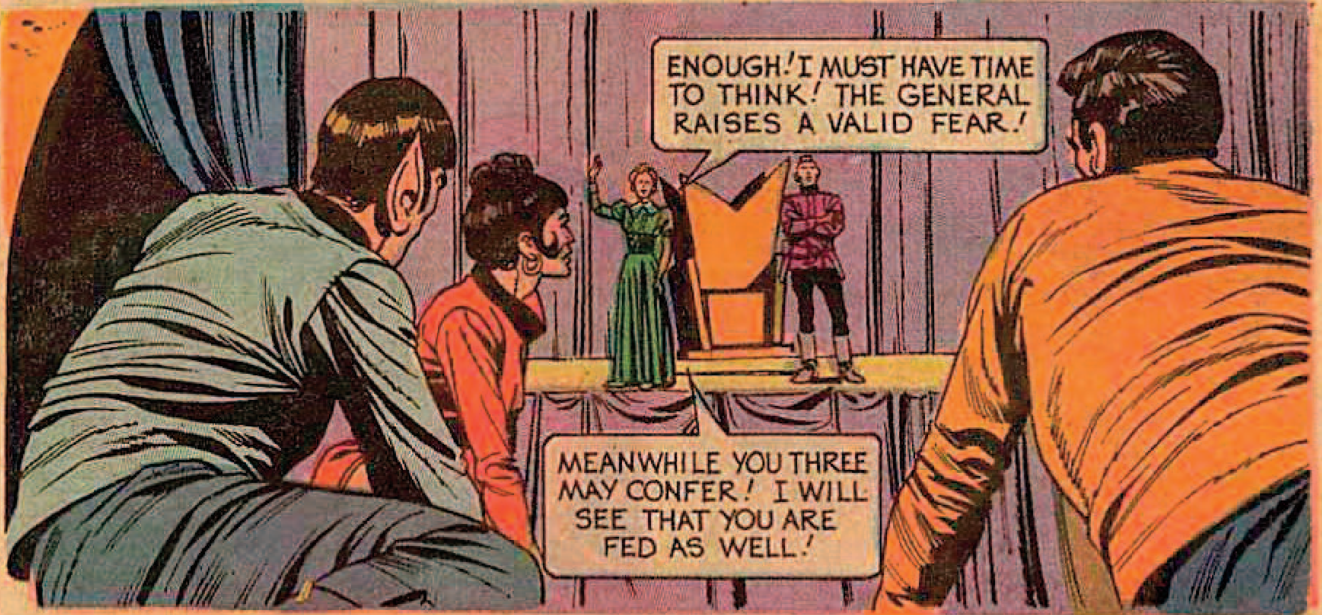

"BUT, IN TIME, THESE CEASED AND LIFE RESUMED AS BEFORE! UNTIL, ONE DAY..."
WE ARE GROWING SMALLER WITH EACH PASSING DAY!
YES! IT'S TRUE! OTHERS REPORT THE SAME! BUT WHY?

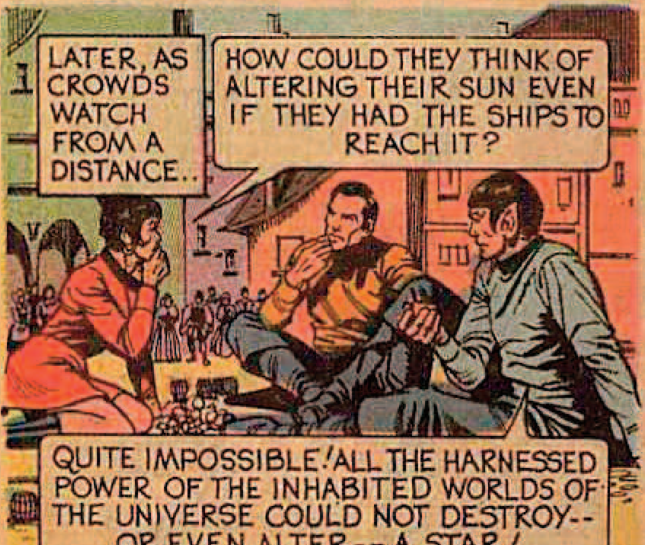

"INVESTIGATIONS WERE SWIFTLY ORDERED! BUT STILL THE STRANGE SHRINKING CONTINUED!"
UNTIL OUR SCIENTISTS FIND THE ANSWER, WE MUST BUILD NEW CITIES FOR OURSELVES!

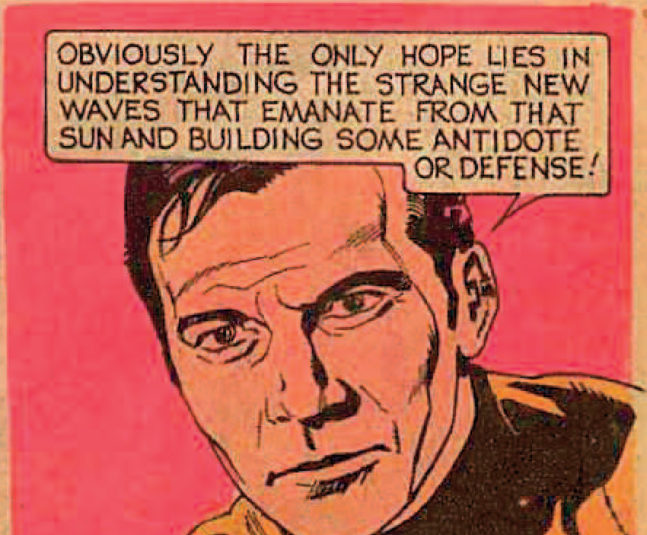

"FARA-2 CITY WAS BUILT, AND THE NEXT GENERATION WAS FORCED TO BUILD FARA-3! THE OLD CITIES WERE MUSEUMS OF OUR PAST!"
IS IT TRUE, TEACHER--THAT *WE* WERE ONCE SUCH GIANTS AS LIVED HERE? IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE!
"IN TIME, OUR SCIENTISTS LEARNED THE CAUSE....
THE ANSWER LIES IN THOSE EXPLOSIONS LONG YEARS AGO ON OUR SUN! SOME NEW RADIO WAVES HAVE CAUSED ALL LIVING CELLS TO SHRINK!
BUT BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE! OUR SHIPS WERE MUCH TOO SMALL TO REACH THE SUN--EVEN IF WE KNEW HOW TO STOP THOSE RAYS!
THIS CONDITION--HAS IT STOPPED YET?
NO! EACH GENERATION GROWS SUCCESSIVELY SMALLER! IN TIME WE WILL BE MICROSCOPIC! ALL OUR ADVANCED TOOLS AND MACHINES WILL BE *LOST* TO US! WE WILL *VANISH!*
OUR SHIP--MAKING THREE OR FOUR TRIPS, COULD TRANSPORT YOUR ENTIRE POPULATION TO ANOTHER WORLD!
THIS IS A PROPOSITION MY PEOPLE HAVE ARGUED FOR GENERATIONS NOW! AND OUR ANSWER IS ALWAYS THE SAME--*NO!*

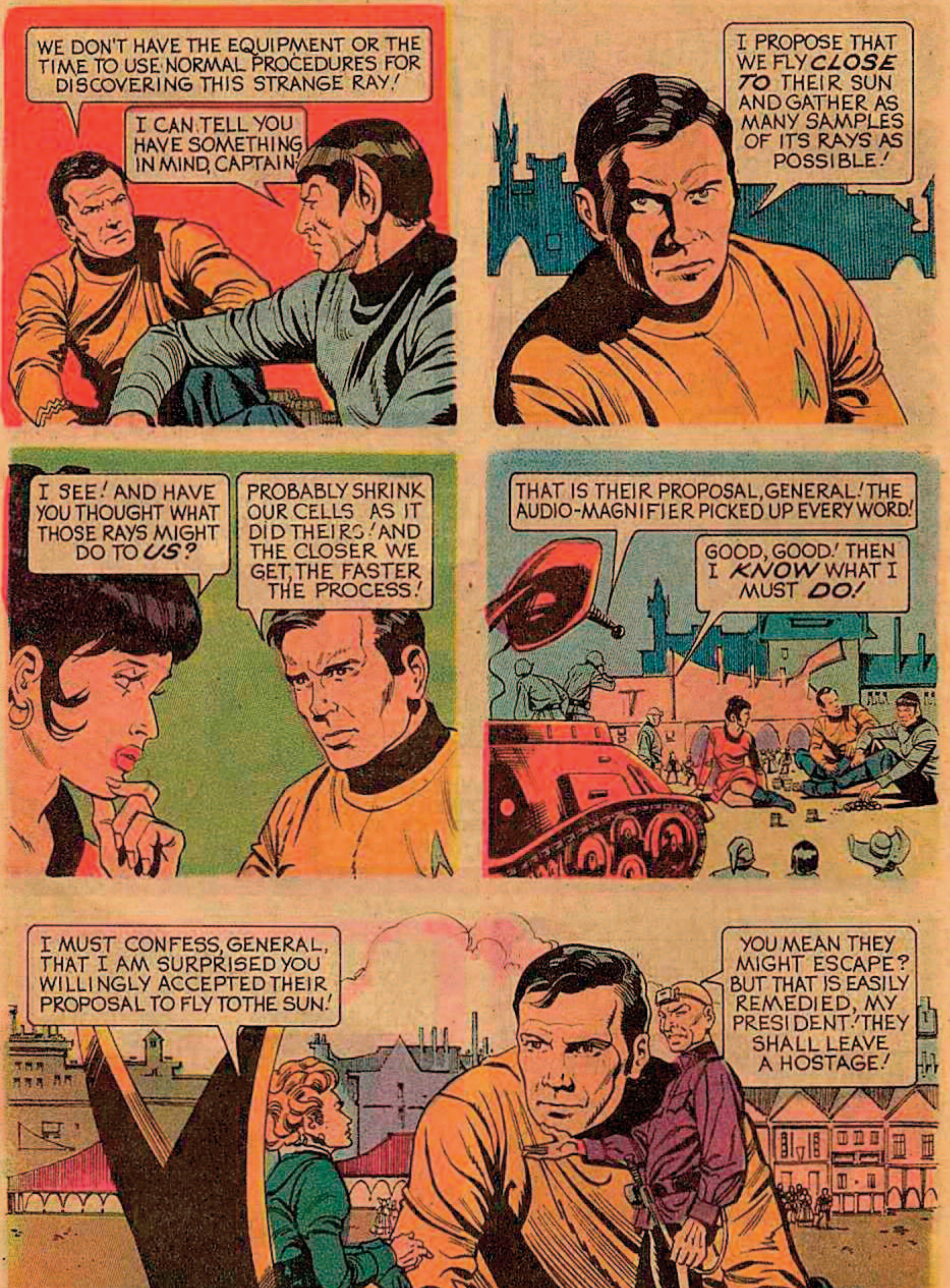

I ADMIRE AND RESPECT YOUR LOVE OF HOMEWORLD, MADAME-PRESIDENT! BUT IS IT NOT A BIT FOOLISH?
TO YOU, SIR! BUT NOT TO OUR PEOPLE! *KUJAL FOREVER!* LONG LIVE KUJAL!

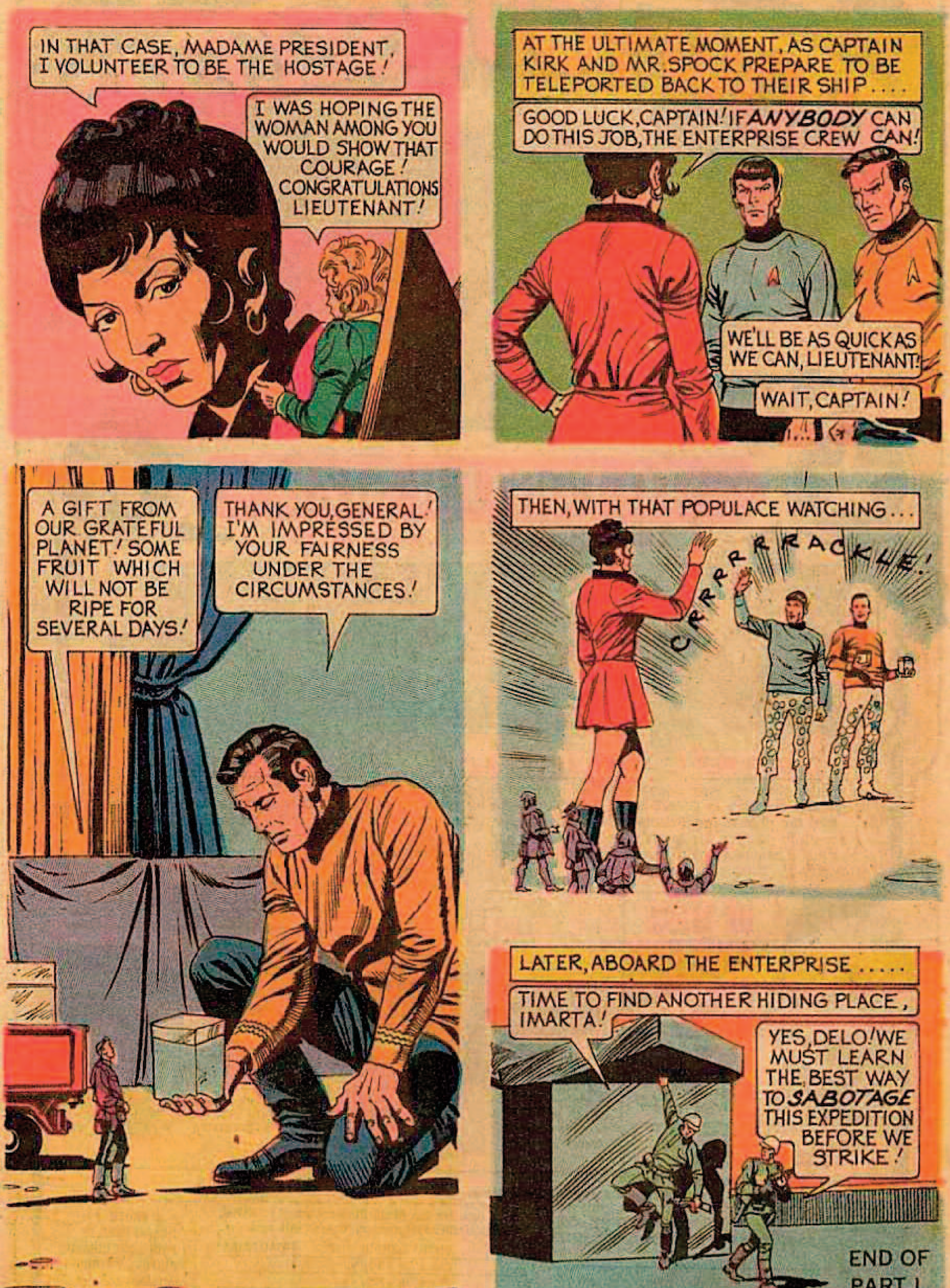

PERHAPS THERE IS ANOTHER ANSWER! PERMIT US TO CONFER ON THE PROBLEM, MADAME-PRESIDENT!
I BEG YOU, PRESIDENT ALATA-- DO NOT LISTEN TO THEM! HAVE THEM *EXECUTED* BEFORE OTHERS FOLLOW AND CONQUER US!

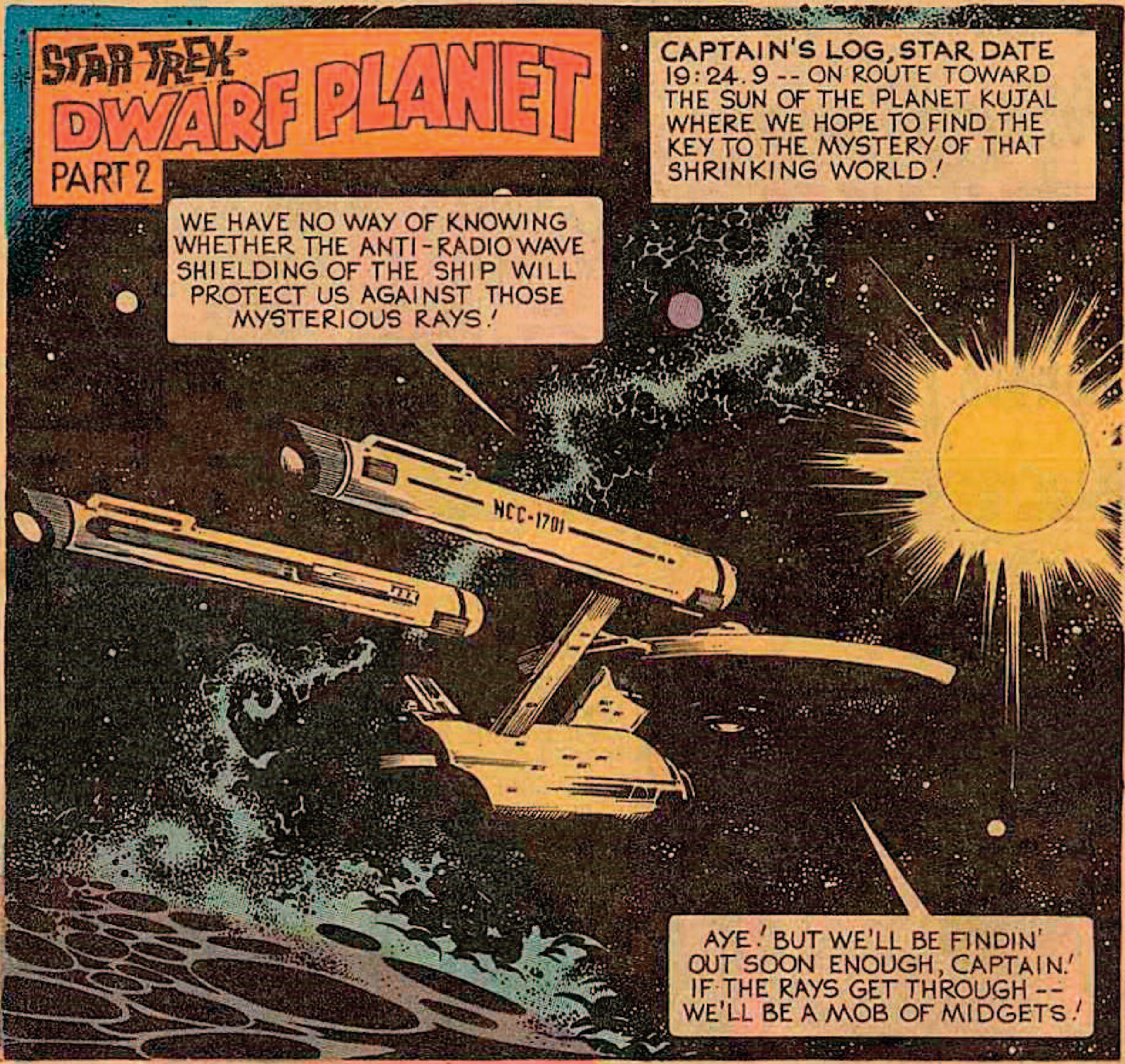

ENOUGH! I MUST HAVE TIME TO THINK! THE GENERAL RAISES A VALID FEAR!
MEANWHILE YOU THREE MAY CONFER! I WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE FED AS WELL!


LATER, AS CROWDS WATCH FROM A DISTANCE..
HOW COULD THEY THINK OF ALTERING THEIR SUN EVEN IF THEY HAD THE SHIPS TO REACH IT?
QUITE IMPOSSIBLE! ALL THE HARNESSED POWER OF THE INHABITED WORLDS OF THE UNIVERSE COULD NOT DESTROY-- OR EVEN ALTER-- A STAR!


OBVIOUSLY THE ONLY HOPE LIES IN UNDERSTANDING THE STRANGE NEW WAVES THAT EMANATE FROM THAT SUN AND BUILDING SOME ANTIDOTE OR DEFENSE!


WE DON'T HAVE THE EQUIPMENT OR THE TIME TO USE NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR DISCOVERING THIS STRANGE RAY!
I CAN TELL YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN MIND, CAPTAIN.
I PROPOSE THAT WE FLY *CLOSE TO* THEIR SUN AND GATHER AS MANY SAMPLES OF ITS RAYS AS POSSIBLE!
I SEE! AND HAVE YOU THOUGHT WHAT THOSE RAYS MIGHT DO TO *US?*
PROBABLY SHRINK OUR CELLS AS IT DID THEIRS! AND THE CLOSER WE GET, THE FASTER THE PROCESS!
THAT IS THEIR PROPOSAL, GENERAL! THE AUDIO-MAGNIFIER PICKED UP EVERY WORD!
GOOD, GOOD! THEN I *KNOW* WHAT I MUST *DO!*
I MUST CONFESS, GENERAL, THAT I AM SURPRISED YOU WILLINGLY ACCEPTED THEIR PROPOSAL TO FLY TO THE SUN!
YOU MEAN THEY MIGHT ESCAPE? BUT THAT IS EASILY REMEDIED, MY PRESIDENT! THEY SHALL LEAVE A HOSTAGE!


IN THAT CASE, MADAME PRESIDENT, I VOLUNTEER TO BE THE HOSTAGE!
I WAS HOPING THE WOMAN AMONG YOU WOULD SHOW THAT COURAGE! CONGRATULATIONS LIEUTENANT!
AT THE ULTIMATE MOMENT, AS CAPTAIN KIRK AND MR. SPOCK PREPARE TO BE TELEPORTED BACK TO THEIR SHIP....
GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN! IF ANYBODY CAN DO THIS JOB, THE ENTERPRISE CREW CAN!
WE'LL BE AS QUICK AS WE CAN, LIEUTENANT!
WAIT, CAPTAIN!
A GIFT FROM OUR GRATEFUL PLANET! SOME FRUIT WHICH WILL NOT BE RIPE FOR SEVERAL DAYS!
THANK YOU, GENERAL! I'M IMPRESSED BY YOUR FAIRNESS UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES!
THEN, WITH THAT POPULACE WATCHING...
CRRRRRRACKLE!
LATER, ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE.....
TIME TO FIND ANOTHER HIDING PLACE, IMARTA!
YES, DELO! WE MUST LEARN THE BEST WAY TO SABOTAGE THIS EXPEDITION BEFORE WE STRIKE!
END OF PART I


STAR TREK
DWARF PLANET
PART 2
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 19:24.9 -- ON ROUTE TOWARD THE SUN OF THE PLANET KUJAL WHERE WE HOPE TO FIND THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY OF THAT SHRINKING WORLD!
WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER THE ANTI-RADIO WAVE SHIELDING OF THE SHIP WILL PROTECT US AGAINST THOSE MYSTERIOUS RAYS!
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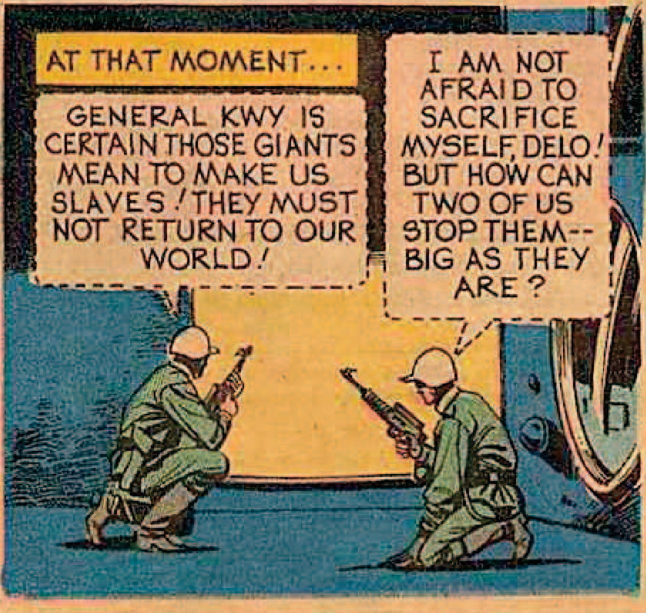
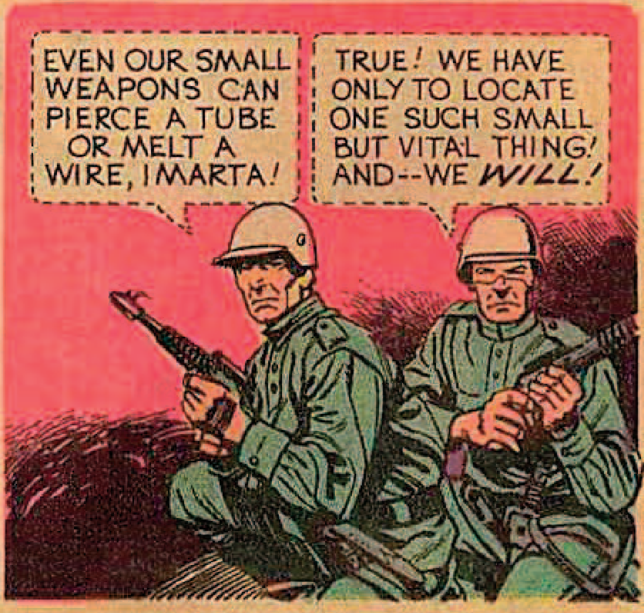
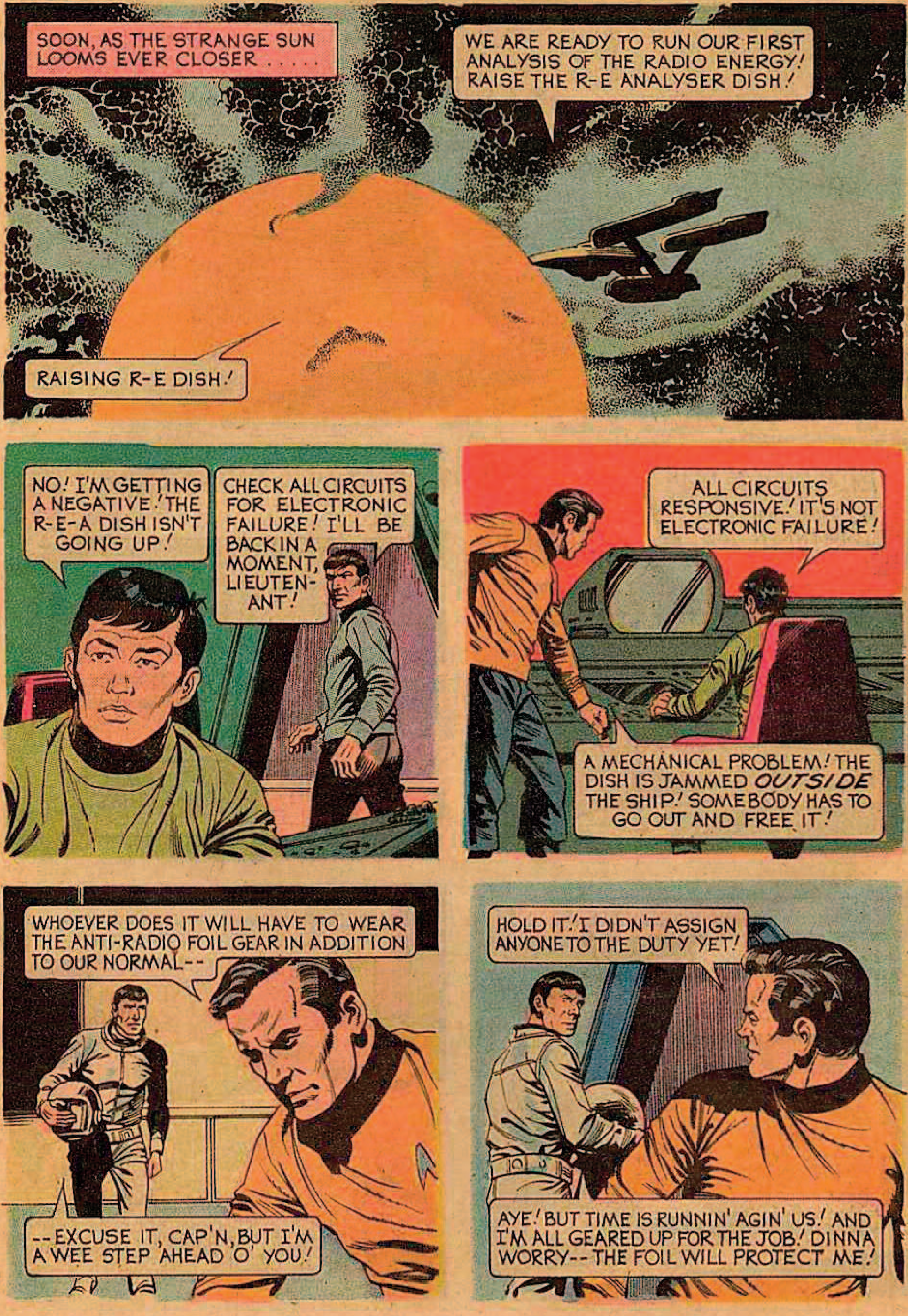
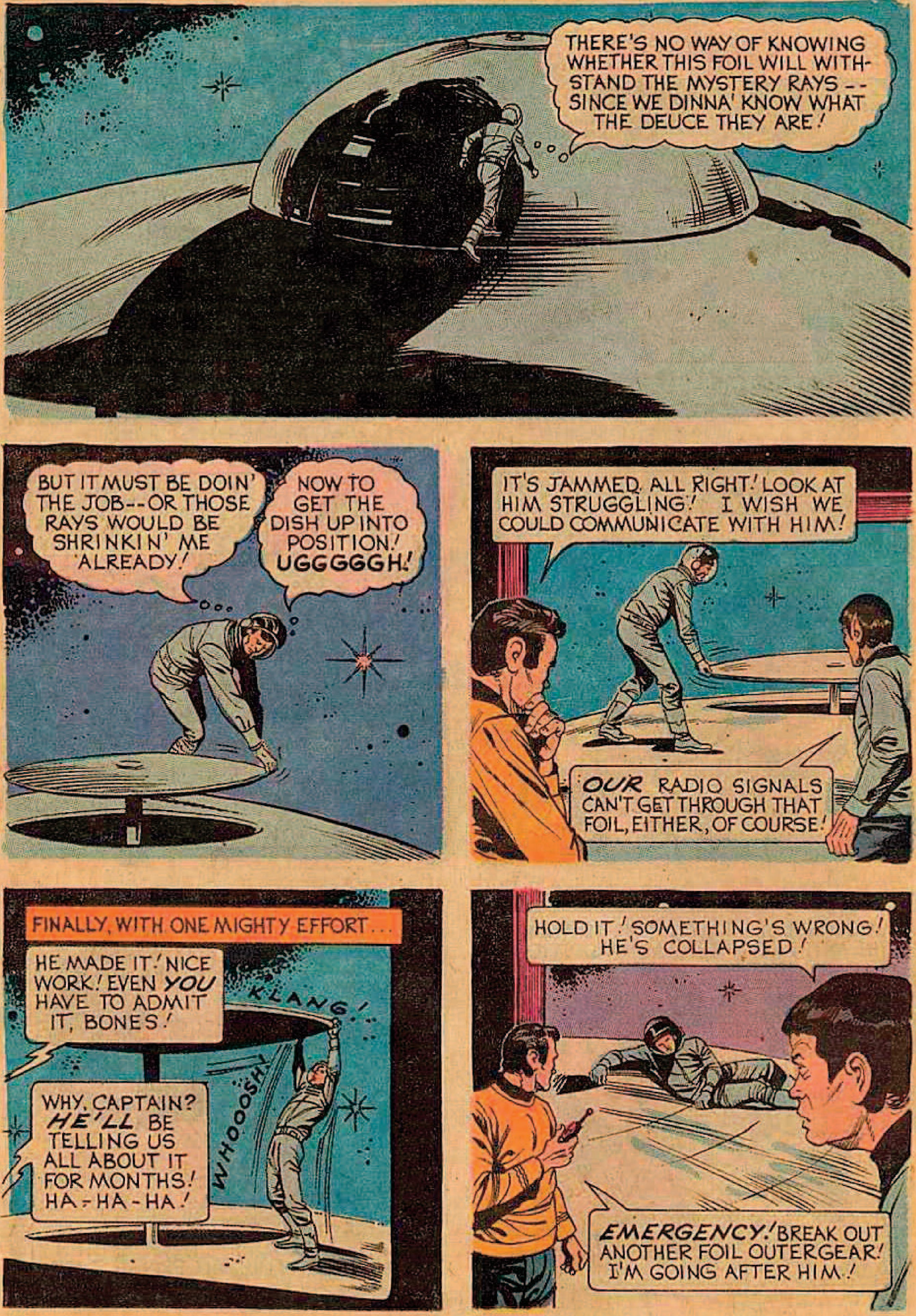
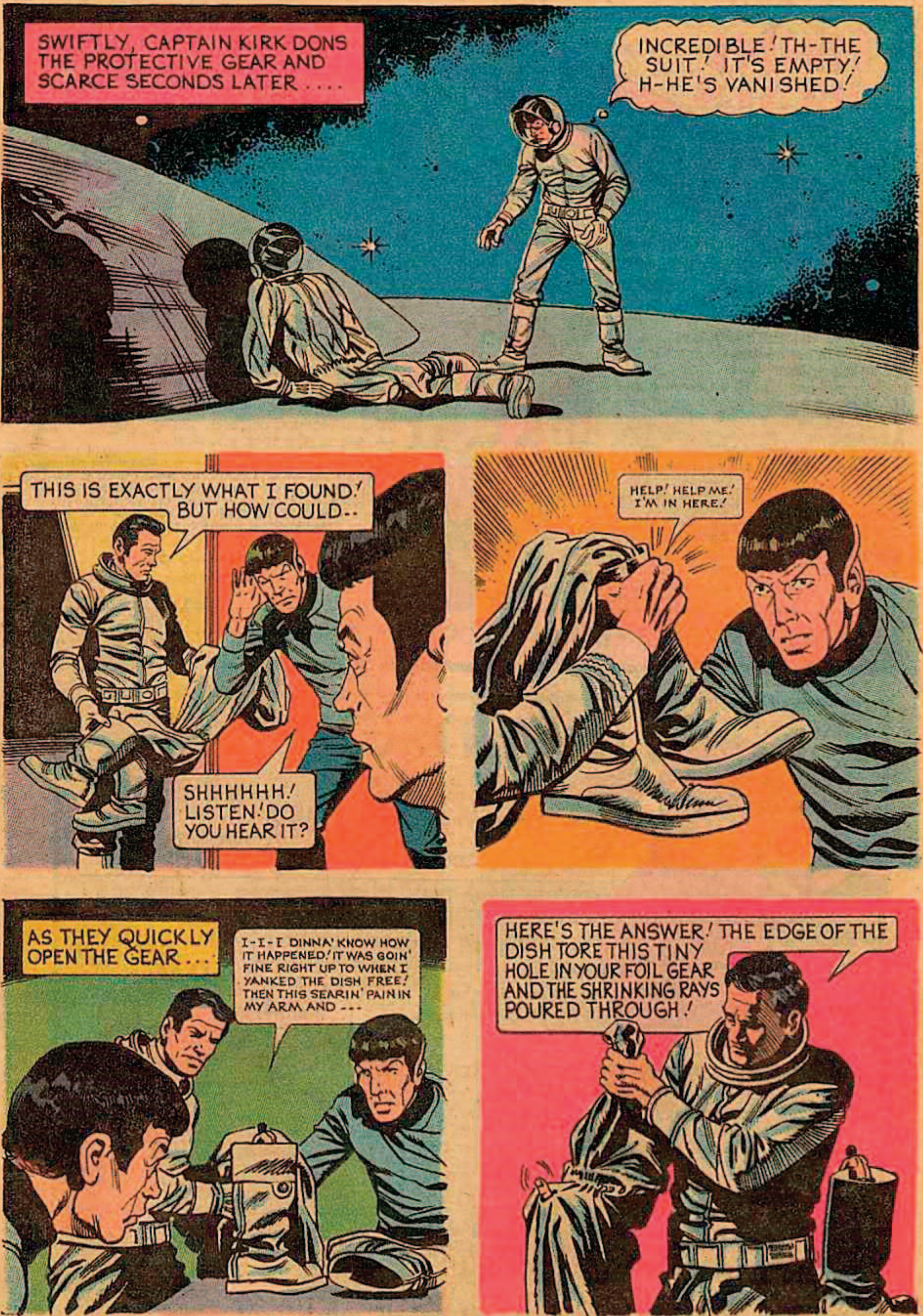
AYE! BUT WE'LL BE FINDIN' OUT SOON ENOUGH, CAPTAIN! IF THE RAYS GET THROUGH -- WE'LL BE A MOB OF MIDGETS!

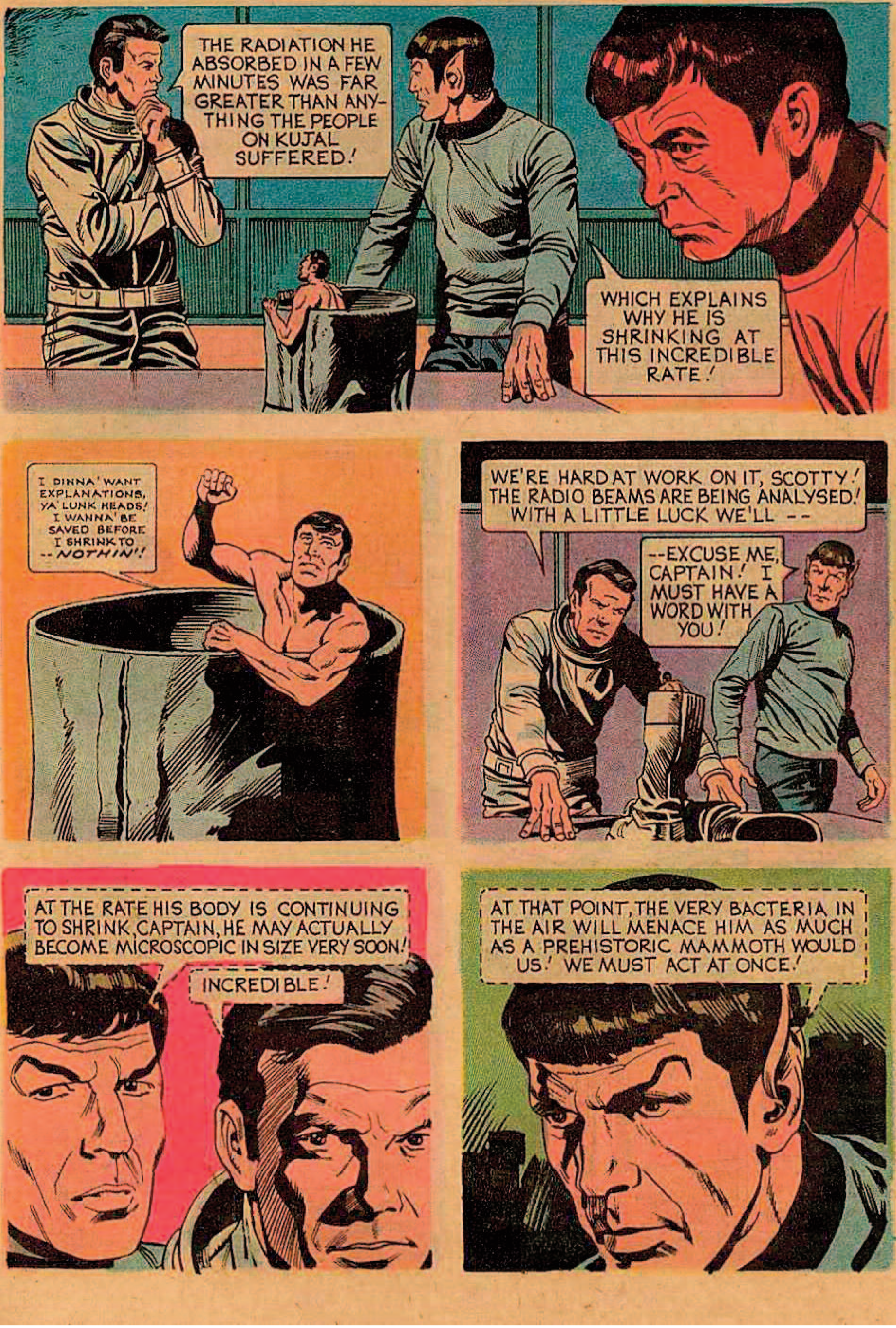

AT THAT MOMENT...
GENERAL KWY IS CERTAIN THOSE GIANTS MEAN TO MAKE US SLAVES! THEY MUST NOT RETURN TO OUR WORLD!
I AM NOT AFRAID TO SACRIFICE MYSELF, DELO! BUT HOW CAN TWO OF US STOP THEM-- BIG AS THEY ARE?

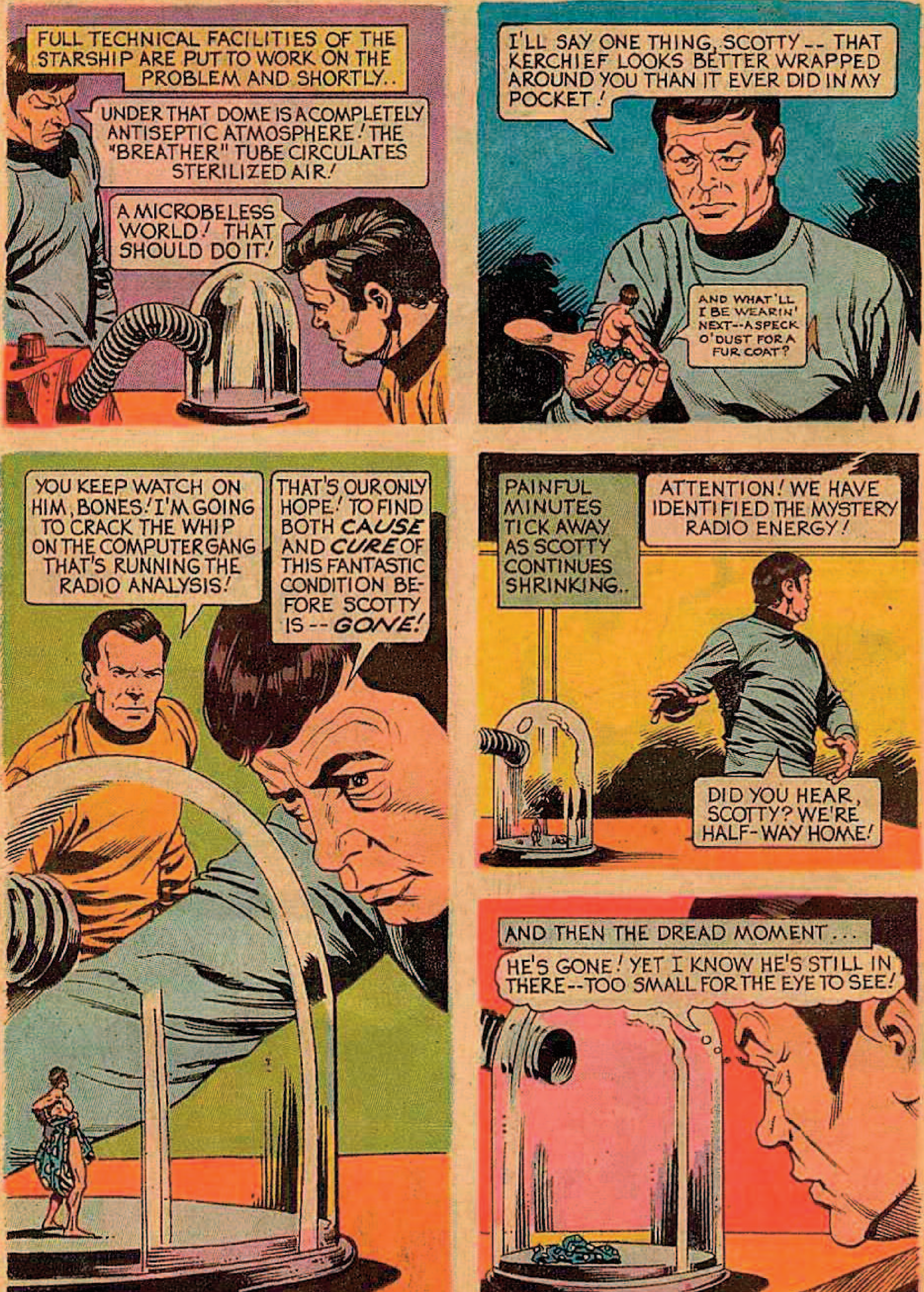

EVEN OUR SMALL WEAPONS CAN PIERCE A TUBE OR MELT A WIRE, IMARTA!
TRUE! WE HAVE ONLY TO LOCATE ONE SUCH SMALL BUT VITAL THING! AND--WE WILL!

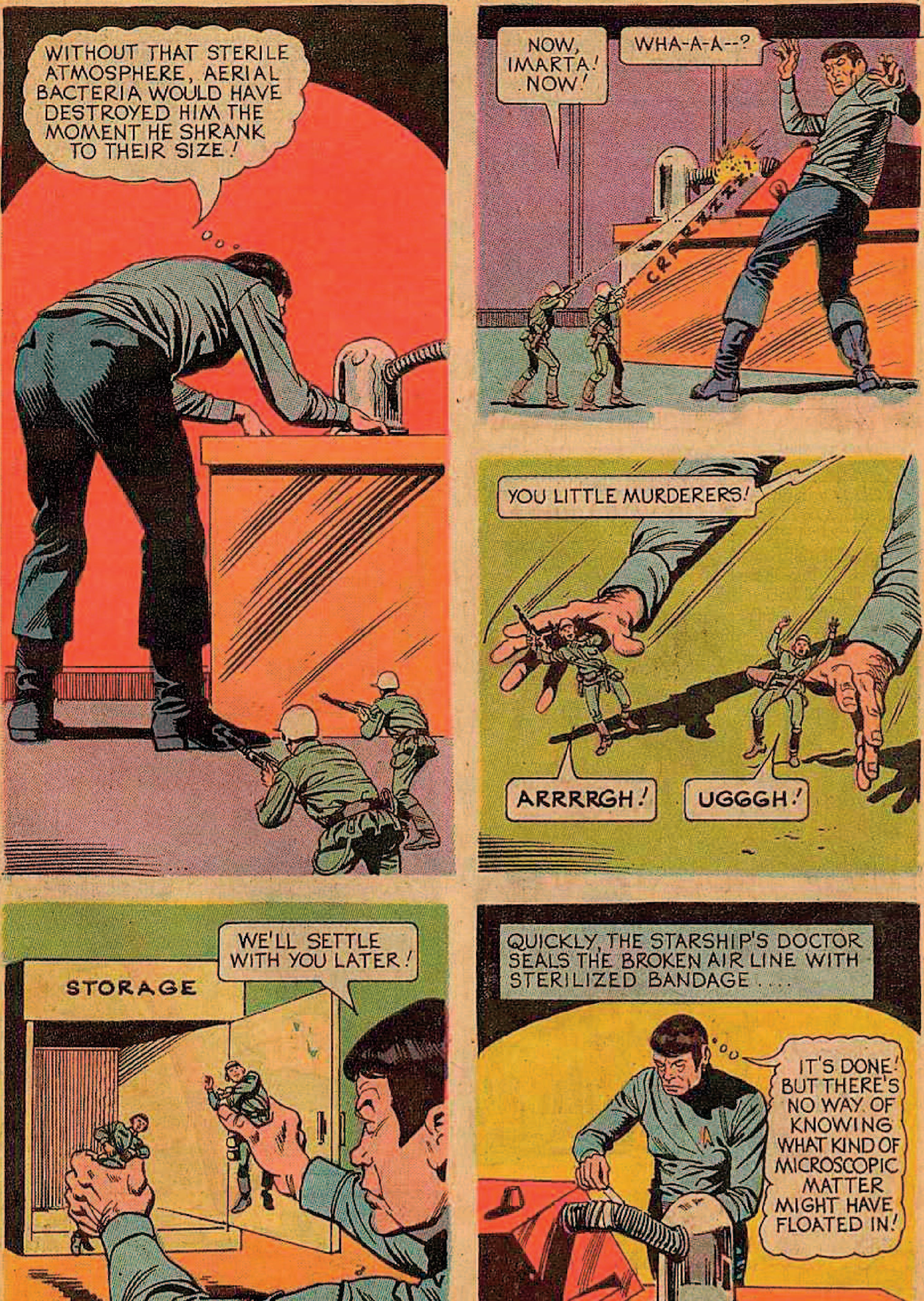

SOON, AS THE STRANGE SUN LOOMS EVER CLOSER .....
WE ARE READY TO RUN OUR FIRST ANALYSIS OF THE RADIO ENERGY! RAISE THE R-E ANALYSER DISH!
RAISING R-E DISH!
NO! I'M GETTING A NEGATIVE! THE R-E-A DISH ISN'T GOING UP!
CHECK ALL CIRCUITS FOR ELECTRONIC FAILURE! I'LL BE BACK IN A MOMENT, LIEUTENANT!
ALL CIRCUITS RESPONSIVE! IT'S NOT ELECTRONIC FAILURE!
A MECHANICAL PROBLEM! THE DISH IS JAMMED *OUTSIDE* THE SHIP! SOMEBODY HAS TO GO OUT AND FREE IT!
WHOEVER DOES IT WILL HAVE TO WEAR THE ANTI-RADIO FOIL GEAR IN ADDITION TO OUR NORMAL--
--EXCUSE IT, CAP'N, BUT I'M A WEE STEP AHEAD O' YOU!
HOLD IT! I DIDN'T ASSIGN ANYONE TO THE DUTY YET!
AYE! BUT TIME IS RUNNIN' AGIN' US! AND I'M ALL GEARED UP FOR THE JOB! DINNA WORRY--THE FOIL WILL PROTECT ME!

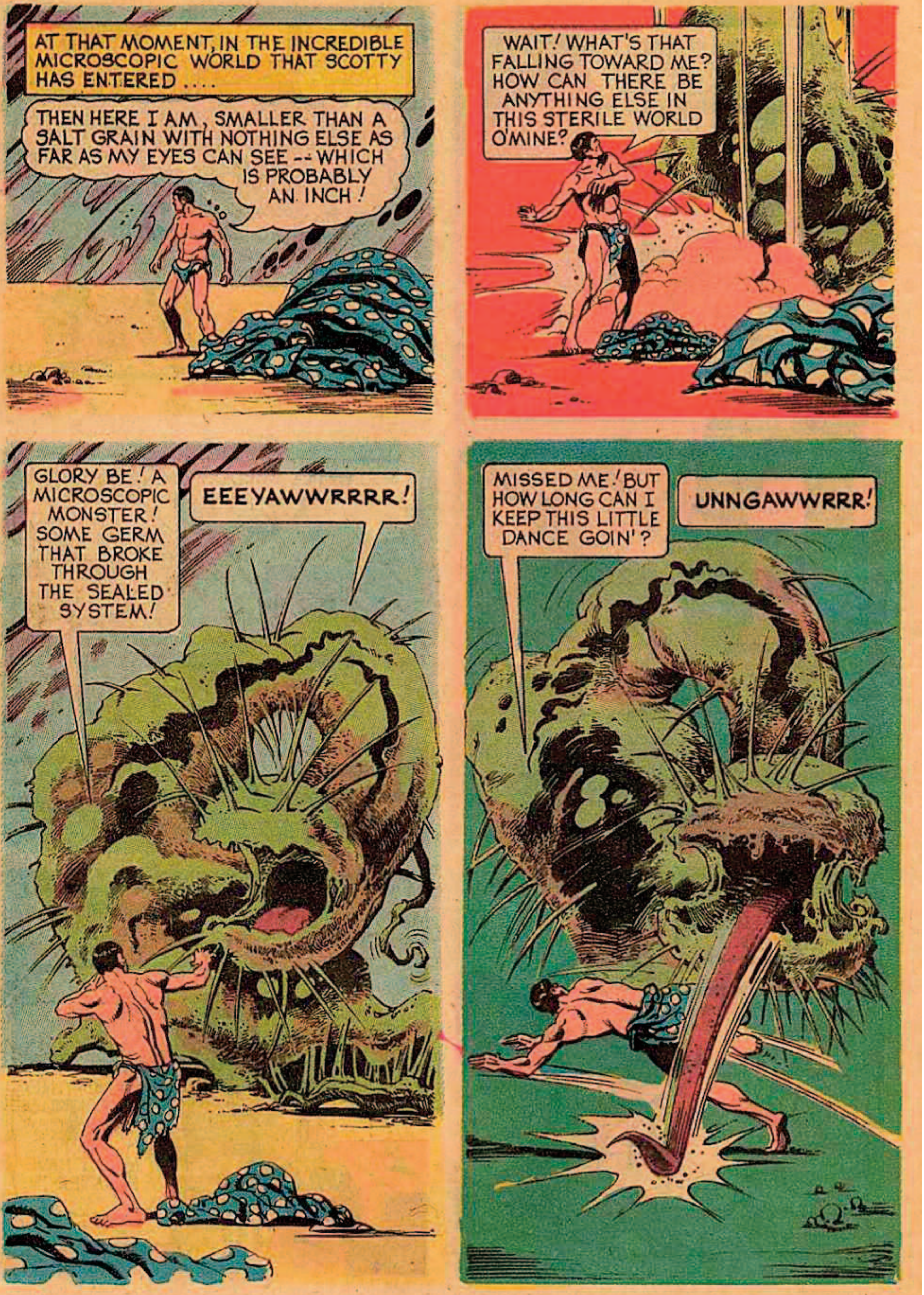

THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER THIS FOIL WILL WITHSTAND THE MYSTERY RAYS -- SINCE WE DINNA' KNOW WHAT THE DEUCE THEY ARE!
BUT IT MUST BE DOIN' THE JOB--OR THOSE RAYS WOULD BE SHRINKIN' ME ALREADY!
NOW TO GET THE DISH UP INTO POSITION! UGGGGGH!
IT'S JAMMED, ALL RIGHT! LOOK AT HIM STRUGGLING! I WISH WE COULD COMMUNICATE WITH HIM!
OUR RADIO SIGNALS CAN'T GET THROUGH THAT FOIL, EITHER, OF COURSE!
FINALLY, WITH ONE MIGHTY EFFORT...
HE MADE IT! NICE WORK! EVEN YOU HAVE TO ADMIT IT, BONES!
KLANG!
WHOOOSH!
WHY, CAPTAIN? HE'LL BE TELLING US ALL ABOUT IT FOR MONTHS! HA-HA-HA!
HOLD IT! SOMETHING'S WRONG! HE'S COLLAPSED!
EMERGENCY! BREAK OUT ANOTHER FOIL OUTERGEAR! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!

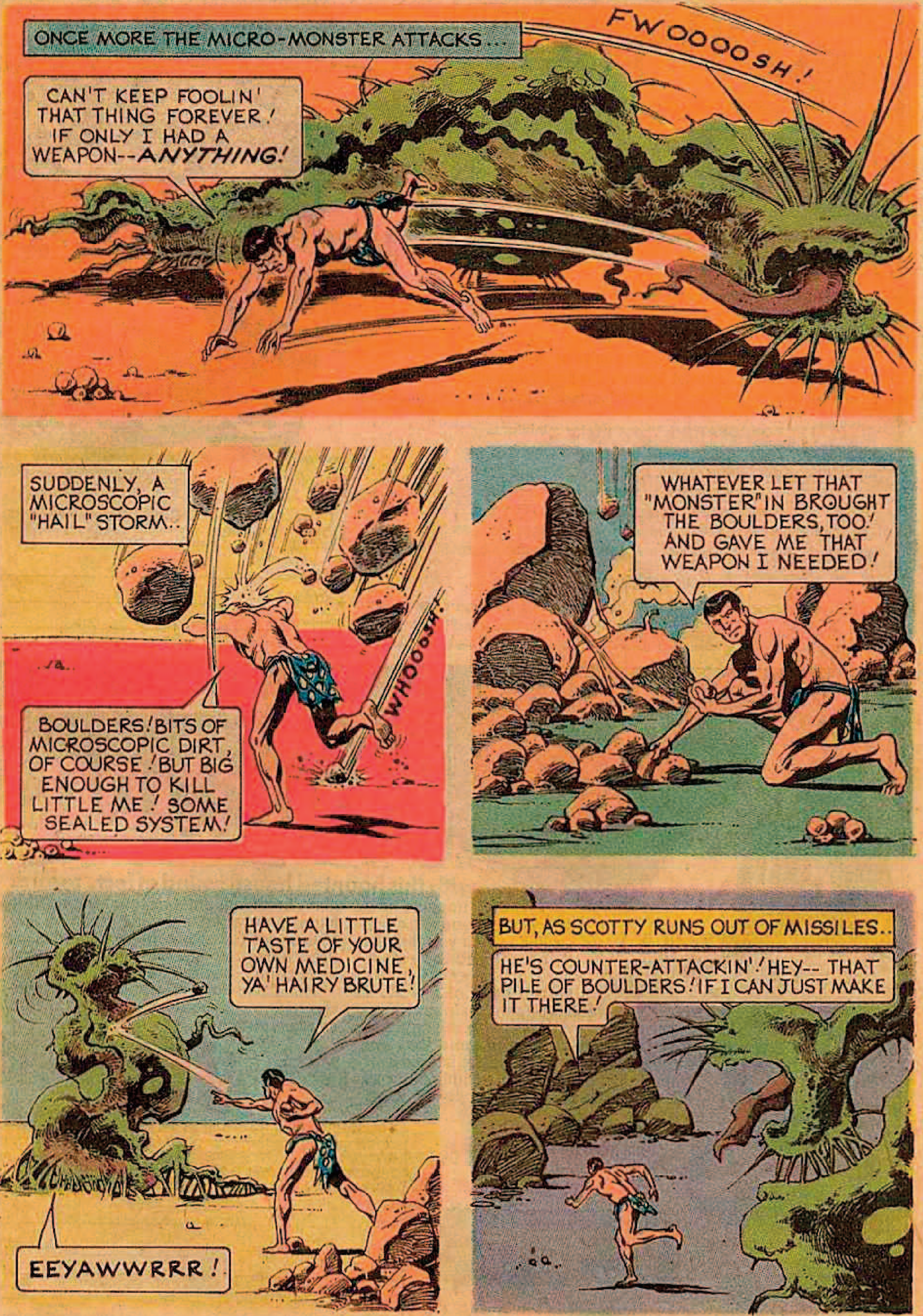

SWIFTLY, CAPTAIN KIRK DONS THE PROTECTIVE GEAR AND SCARCE SECONDS LATER....
INCREDIBLE! TH-THE SUIT! IT'S EMPTY! H-HE'S VANISHED!
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I FOUND! BUT HOW COULD--
SHHHHHH! LISTEN! DO YOU HEAR IT?
HELP! HELP ME! I'M IN HERE!
AS THEY QUICKLY OPEN THE GEAR...
I-I-I DINNA' KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED! IT WAS GOIN' FINE RIGHT UP TO WHEN I YANKED THE DISH FREE! THEN THIS SEARIN' PAIN IN MY ARM AND ---
HERE'S THE ANSWER! THE EDGE OF THE DISH TORE THIS TINY HOLE IN YOUR FOIL GEAR AND THE SHRINKING RAYS POURED THROUGH!

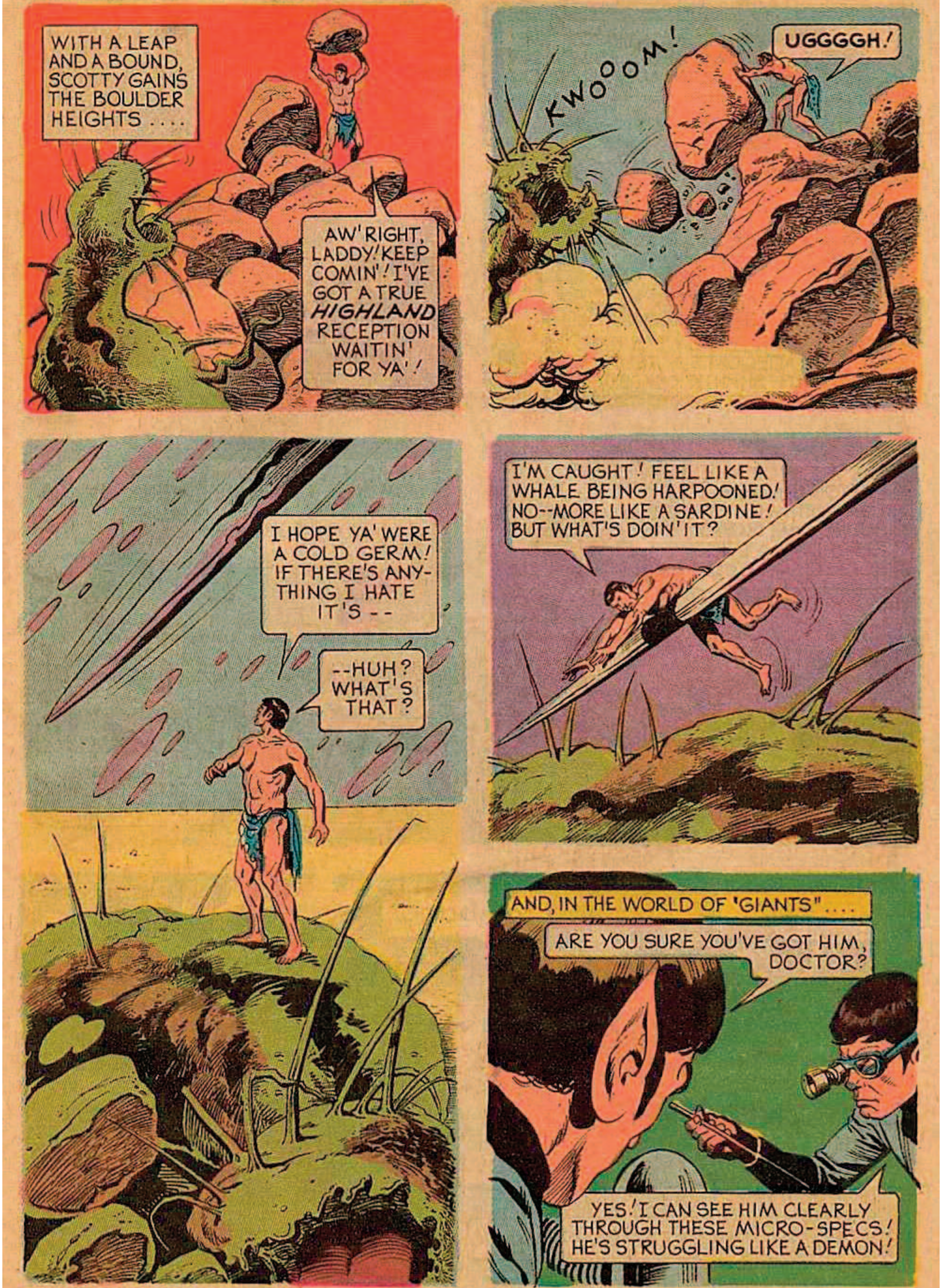

THE RADIATION HE ABSORBED IN A FEW MINUTES WAS FAR GREATER THAN ANYTHING THE PEOPLE ON KUJAL SUFFERED!
WHICH EXPLAINS WHY HE IS SHRINKING AT THIS INCREDIBLE RATE!
I DINNA' WANT EXPLANATIONS, YA' LUNK HEADS! I WANNA' BE SAVED BEFORE I SHRINK TO --*NOTHIN'*!
WE'RE HARD AT WORK ON IT, SCOTTY! THE RADIO BEAMS ARE BEING ANALYSED! WITH A LITTLE LUCK WE'LL --
--EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN! I MUST HAVE A WORD WITH YOU!
AT THE RATE HIS BODY IS CONTINUING TO SHRINK, CAPTAIN, HE MAY ACTUALLY BECOME MICROSCOPIC IN SIZE VERY SOON!
INCREDIBLE!
AT THAT POINT, THE VERY BACTERIA IN THE AIR WILL MENACE HIM AS MUCH AS A PREHISTORIC MAMMOTH WOULD US! WE MUST ACT AT ONCE!

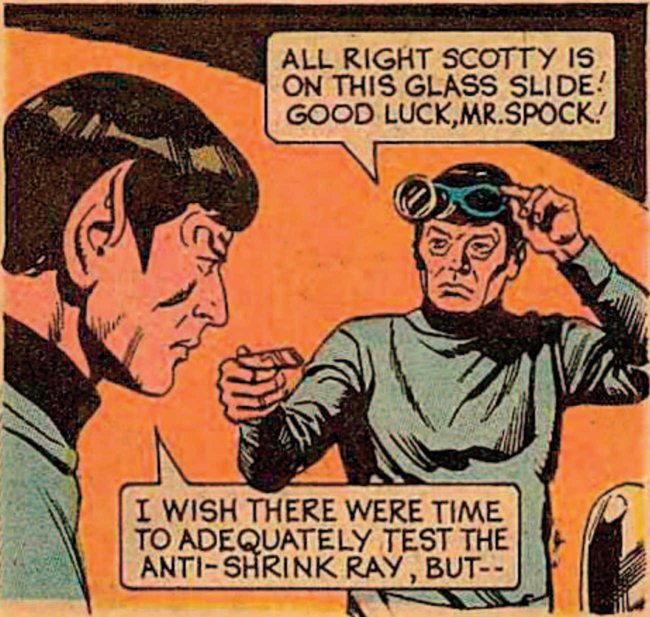

FULL TECHNICAL FACILITIES OF THE STARSHIP ARE PUT TO WORK ON THE PROBLEM AND SHORTLY..
UNDER THAT DOME IS A COMPLETELY ANTISEPTIC ATMOSPHERE! THE "BREATHER" TUBE CIRCULATES STERILIZED AIR!
A MICROBELESS WORLD! THAT SHOULD DO IT!
I'LL SAY ONE THING, SCOTTY -- THAT KERCHIEF LOOKS BETTER WRAPPED AROUND YOU THAN IT EVER DID IN MY POCKET!
AND WHAT'LL I BE WEARIN' NEXT--A SPECK O'DUST FOR A FUR COAT?
YOU KEEP WATCH ON HIM, BONES! I'M GOING TO CRACK THE WHIP ON THE COMPUTER GANG THAT'S RUNNING THE RADIO ANALYSIS!
THAT'S OUR ONLY HOPE! TO FIND BOTH *CAUSE* AND *CURE* OF THIS FANTASTIC CONDITION BEFORE SCOTTY IS -- *GONE!*
PAINFUL MINUTES TICK AWAY AS SCOTTY CONTINUES SHRINKING..
ATTENTION! WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE MYSTERY RADIO ENERGY!
DID YOU HEAR, SCOTTY? WE'RE HALF-WAY HOME!
AND THEN THE DREAD MOMENT...
HE'S GONE! YET I KNOW HE'S STILL IN THERE--TOO SMALL FOR THE EYE TO SEE!

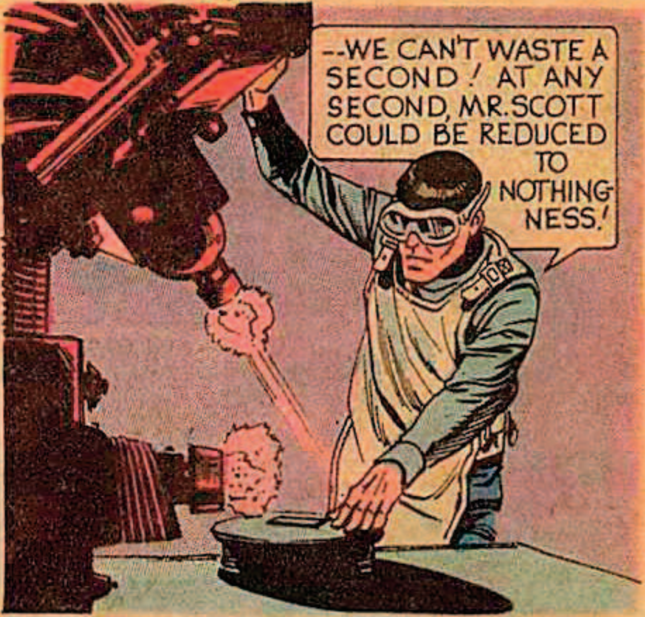

WITHOUT THAT STERILE ATMOSPHERE, AERIAL BACTERIA WOULD HAVE DESTROYED HIM THE MOMENT HE SHRANK TO THEIR SIZE!
NOW, IMARTA! NOW!
WHA-A-A--?
CRRRZZZZT
YOU LITTLE MURDERERS!
ARRRRGH!
UGGGH!
STORAGE
WE'LL SETTLE WITH YOU LATER!
QUICKLY, THE STARSHIP'S DOCTOR SEALS THE BROKEN AIR LINE WITH STERILIZED BANDAGE....
IT'S DONE! BUT THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT KIND OF MICROSCOPIC MATTER MIGHT HAVE FLOATED IN!

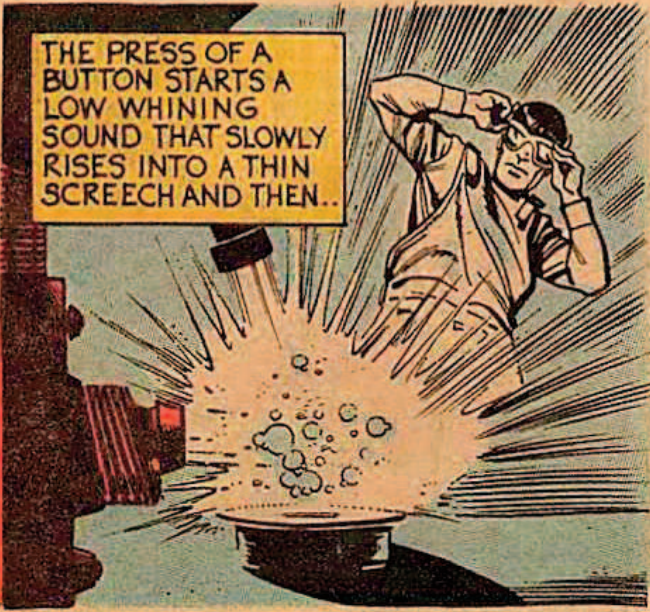

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE INCREDIBLE MICROSCOPIC WORLD THAT SCOTTY HAS ENTERED ....
THEN HERE I AM, SMALLER THAN A SALT GRAIN WITH NOTHING ELSE AS FAR AS MY EYES CAN SEE -- WHICH IS PROBABLY AN INCH!
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT FALLING TOWARD ME? HOW CAN THERE BE ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS STERILE WORLD O'MINE?
GLORY BE! A MICROSCOPIC MONSTER! SOME GERM THAT BROKE THROUGH THE SEALED SYSTEM!
EEEYAWWRRRR!
MISSED ME! BUT HOW LONG CAN I KEEP THIS LITTLE DANCE GOIN'?
UNNGAWWRRR!

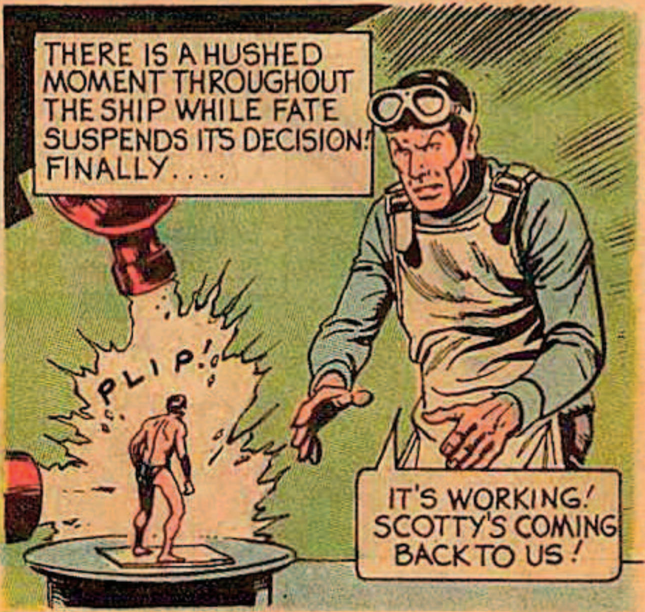

ONCE MORE THE MICRO-MONSTER ATTACKS...
FWOOOOOSH!
CAN'T KEEP FOOLIN' THAT THING FOREVER! IF ONLY I HAD A WEAPON--ANYTHING!
SUDDENLY, A MICROSCOPIC "HAIL" STORM..
WHOOOSH!
BOULDERS! BITS OF MICROSCOPIC DIRT, OF COURSE! BUT BIG ENOUGH TO KILL LITTLE ME! SOME SEALED SYSTEM!
WHATEVER LET THAT "MONSTER" IN BROUGHT THE BOULDERS, TOO! AND GAVE ME THAT WEAPON I NEEDED!
HAVE A LITTLE TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE, YA' HAIRY BRUTE!
EEYAWWRRR!
BUT, AS SCOTTY RUNS OUT OF MISSILES..
HE'S COUNTER-ATTACKIN'! HEY-- THAT PILE OF BOULDERS! IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT THERE!

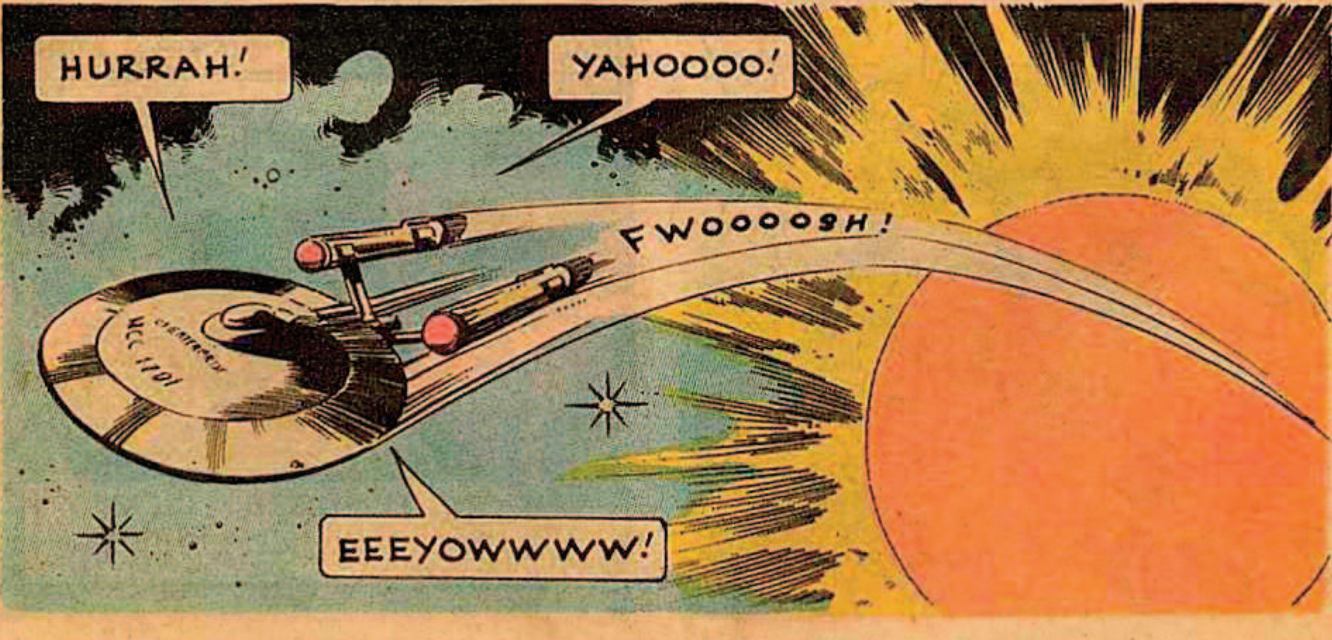

WITH A LEAP AND A BOUND, SCOTTY GAINS THE BOULDER HEIGHTS ....
AW' RIGHT, LADDY! KEEP COMIN'! I'VE GOT A TRUE *HIGHLAND* RECEPTION WAITIN' FOR YA'!
KWOOOM!
UGGGGH!
I HOPE YA' WERE A COLD GERM! IF THERE'S ANYTHING I HATE IT'S --
--HUH? WHAT'S THAT?
I'M CAUGHT! FEEL LIKE A WHALE BEING HARPOONED! NO--MORE LIKE A SARDINE! BUT WHAT'S DOIN' IT?
AND, IN THE WORLD OF "GIANTS" ....
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE GOT HIM, DOCTOR?
YES! I CAN SEE HIM CLEARLY THROUGH THESE MICRO-SPECS! HE'S STRUGGLING LIKE A DEMON!

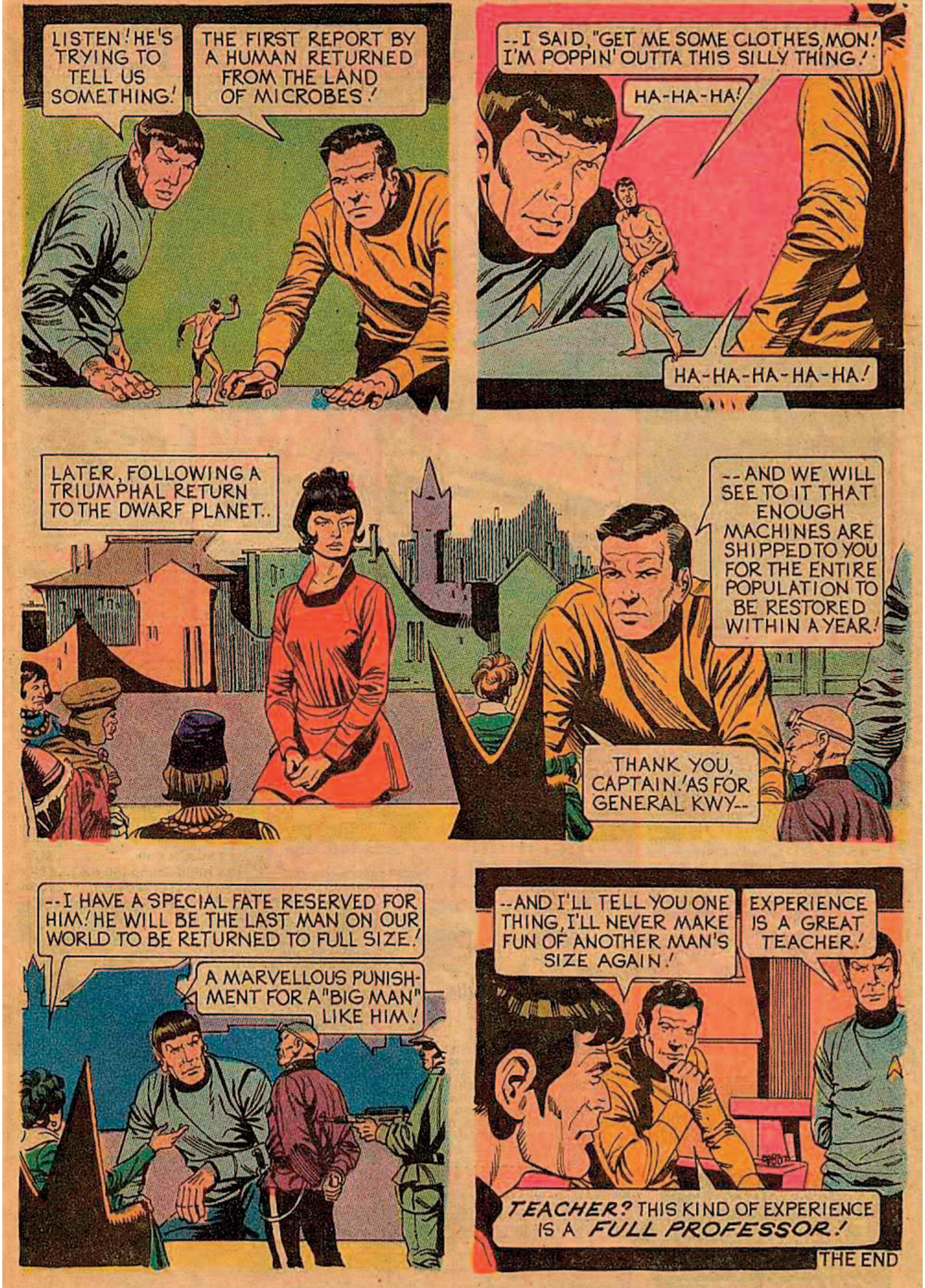

ALL RIGHT SCOTTY IS ON THIS GLASS SLIDE! GOOD LUCK, MR. SPOCK!
I WISH THERE WERE TIME TO ADEQUATELY TEST THE ANTI-SHRINK RAY, BUT--

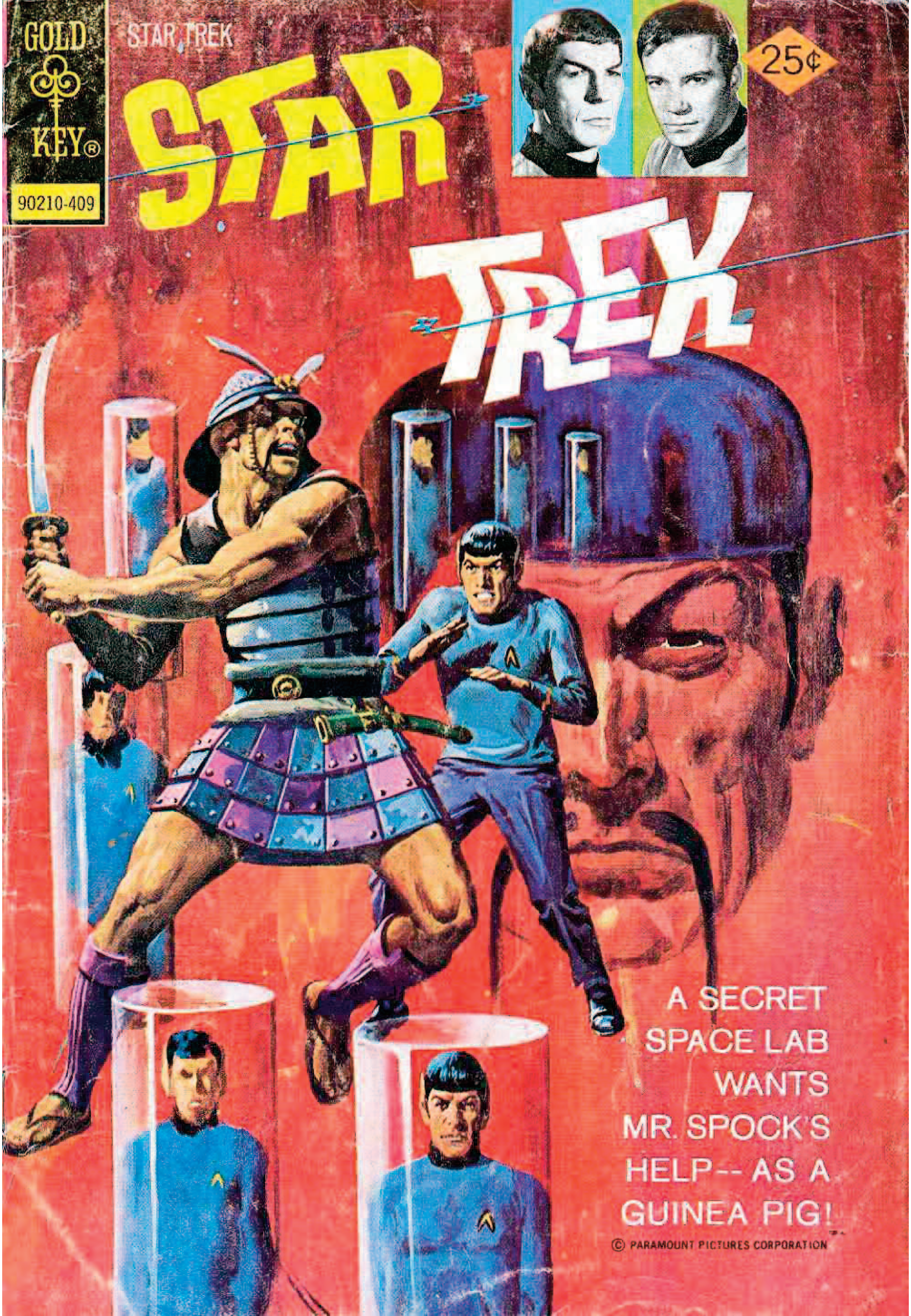

--WE CAN'T WASTE A SECOND! AT ANY SECOND, MR. SCOTT COULD BE REDUCED TO NOTHINGNESS!


THE PRESS OF A BUTTON STARTS A LOW WHINING SOUND THAT SLOWLY RISES INTO A THIN SCREECH AND THEN..


THERE IS A HUSHED MOMENT THROUGHOUT THE SHIP WHILE FATE SUSPENDS ITS DECISION! FINALLY....
PLIP!
IT'S WORKING! SCOTTY'S COMING BACK TO US!


HURRAH!
YAHOOOO!
FWOOOOSH!
NCC 1701
EEEYOWWWWW!


LISTEN! HE'S TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING!
THE FIRST REPORT BY A HUMAN RETURNED FROM THE LAND OF MICROBES!
--I SAID, "GET ME SOME CLOTHES, MON! I'M POPPIN' OUTTA THIS SILLY THING!"
HA-HA-HA!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
LATER, FOLLOWING A TRIUMPHAL RETURN TO THE DWARF PLANET..
--AND WE WILL SEE TO IT THAT ENOUGH MACHINES ARE SHIPPED TO YOU FOR THE ENTIRE POPULATION TO BE RESTORED WITHIN A YEAR!
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN! AS FOR GENERAL KWY--
--I HAVE A SPECIAL FATE RESERVED FOR HIM! HE WILL BE THE LAST MAN ON OUR WORLD TO BE RETURNED TO FULL SIZE!
A MARVELLOUS PUNISHMENT FOR A "BIG MAN" LIKE HIM!
--AND I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING, I'LL NEVER MAKE FUN OF ANOTHER MAN'S SIZE AGAIN!
EXPERIENCE IS A GREAT TEACHER!
TEACHER? THIS KIND OF EXPERIENCE IS A FULL PROFESSOR!
THE END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STAR TREK
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A SECRET SPACE LAB WANTS MR. SPOCK'S HELP-- AS A GUINEA PIG!

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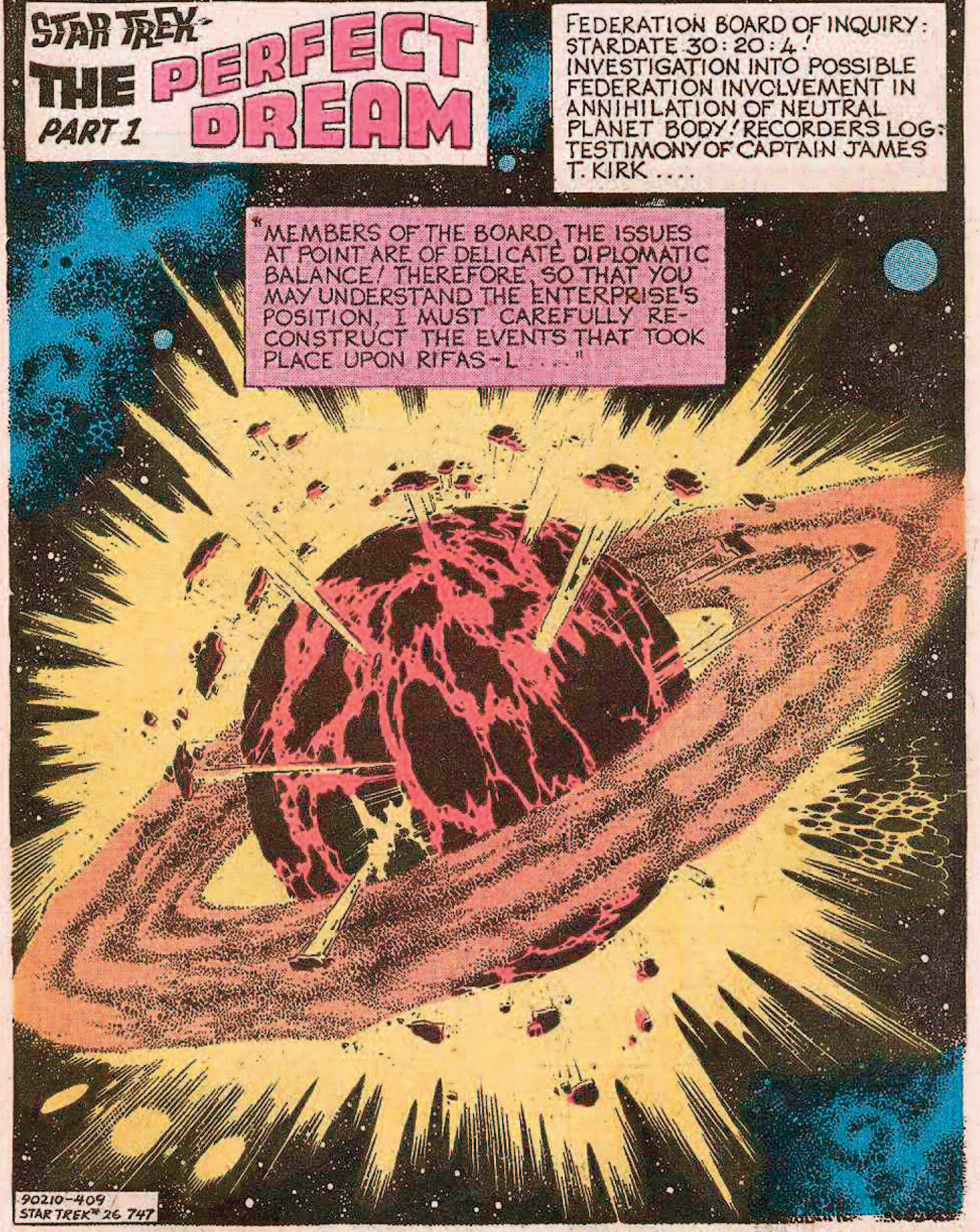
STAR TREK
THE PERFECT DREAM
PART 1
FEDERATION BOARD OF INQUIRY: STARDATE 30:20:4! INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE FEDERATION INVOLVEMENT IN ANNIHILATION OF NEUTRAL PLANET BODY! RECORDERS LOG: TESTIMONY OF CAPTAIN JAMES T. KIRK....
"MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, THE ISSUES AT POINT ARE OF DELICATE DIPLOMATIC BALANCE! THEREFORE, SO THAT YOU MAY UNDERSTAND THE ENTERPRISE'S POSITION, I MUST CAREFULLY RECONSTRUCT THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE UPON RIFAS-L...."
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STAR TREK™ 26 747

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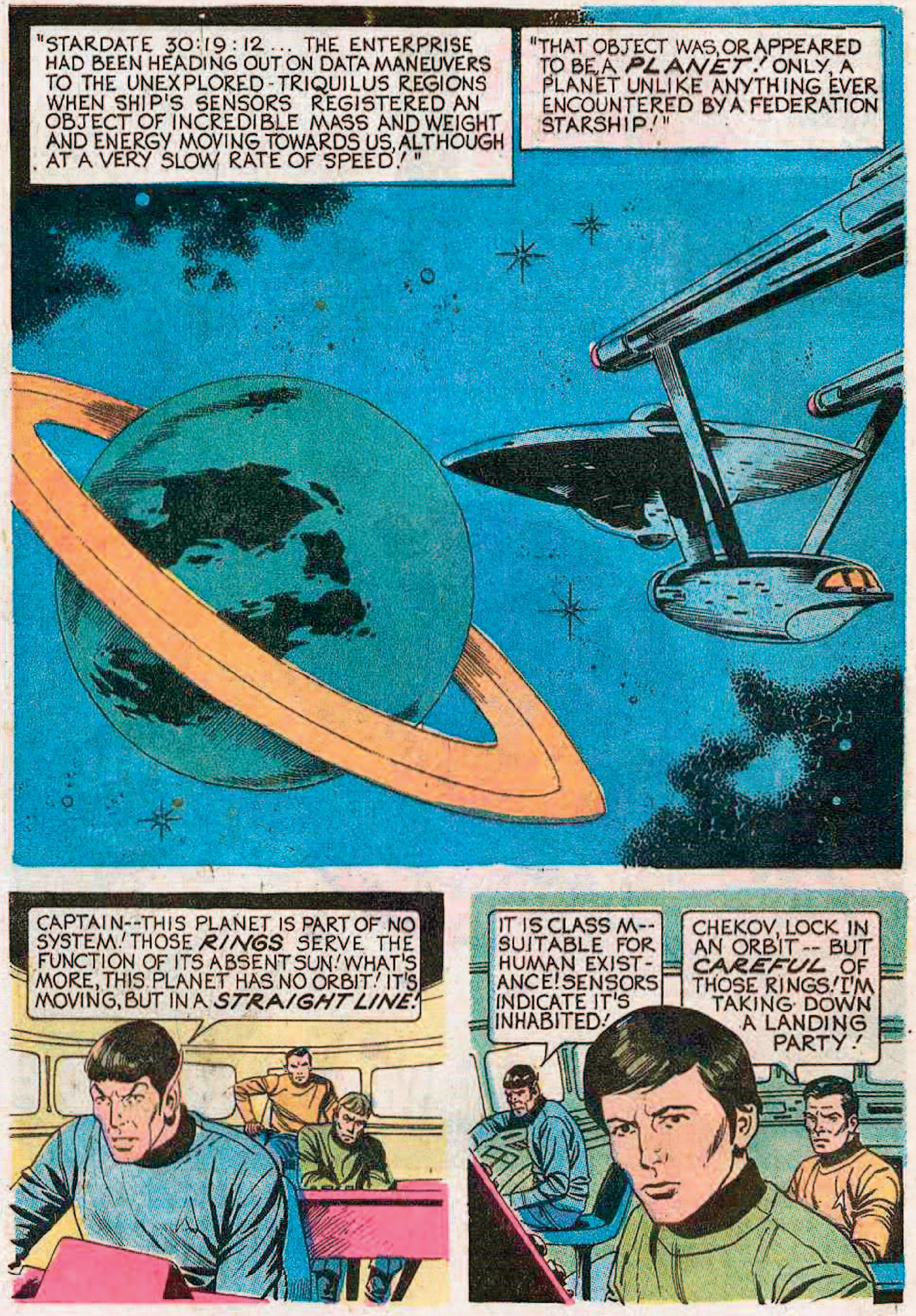
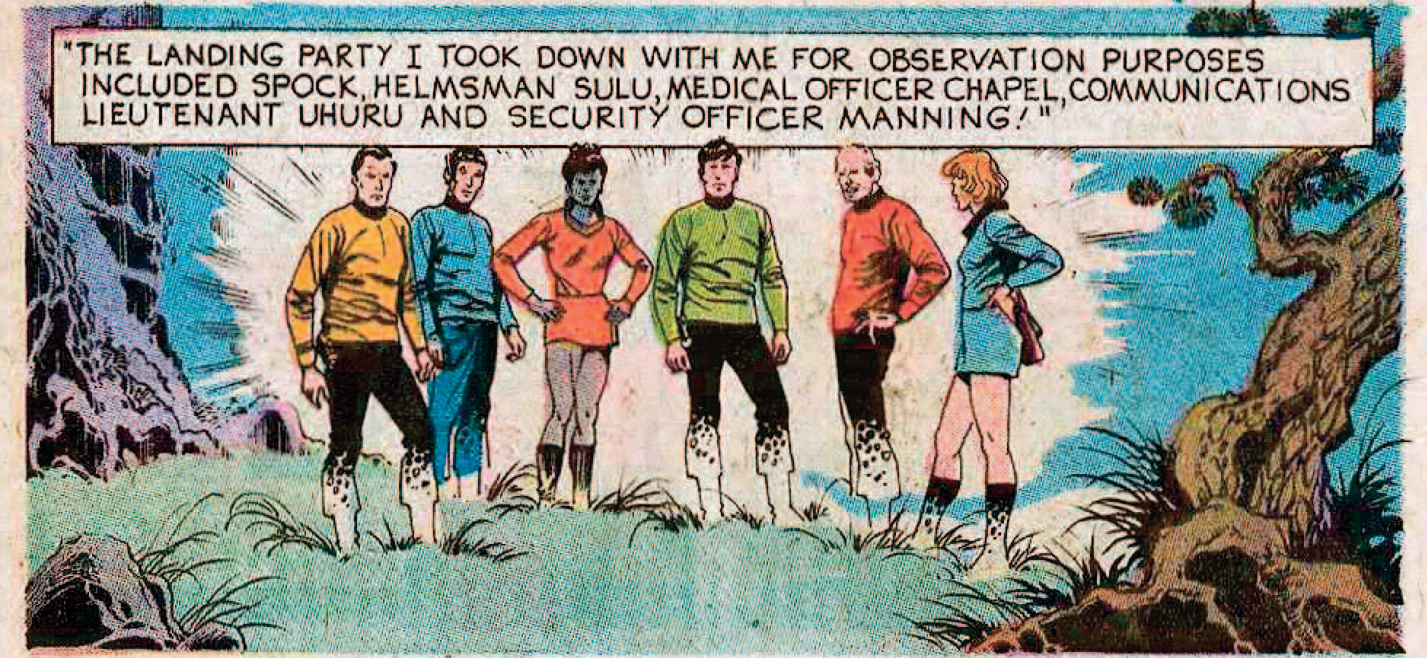
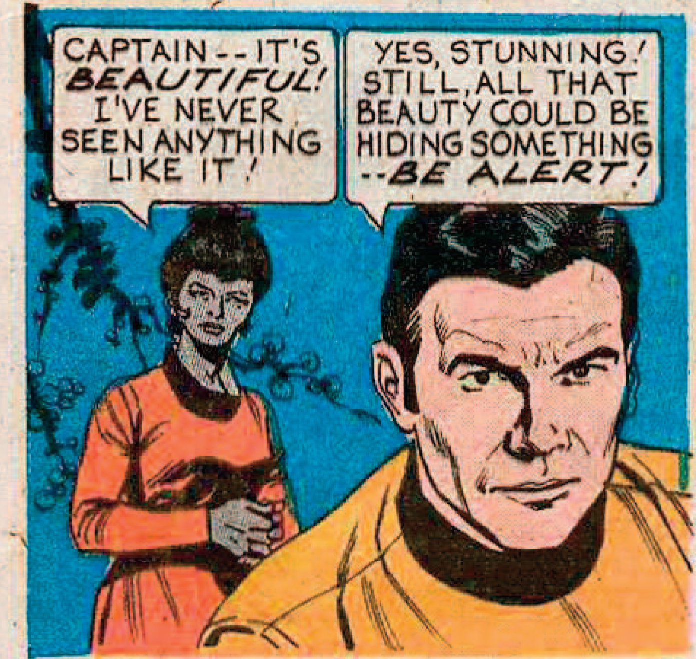
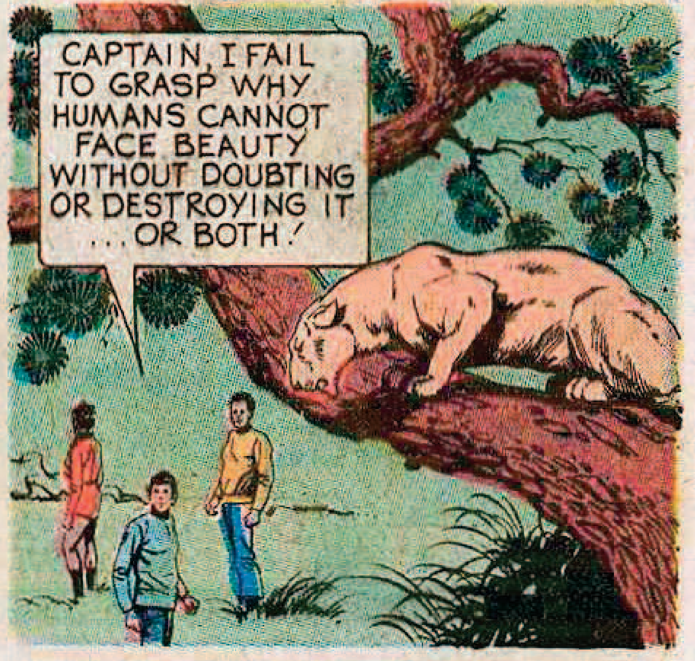
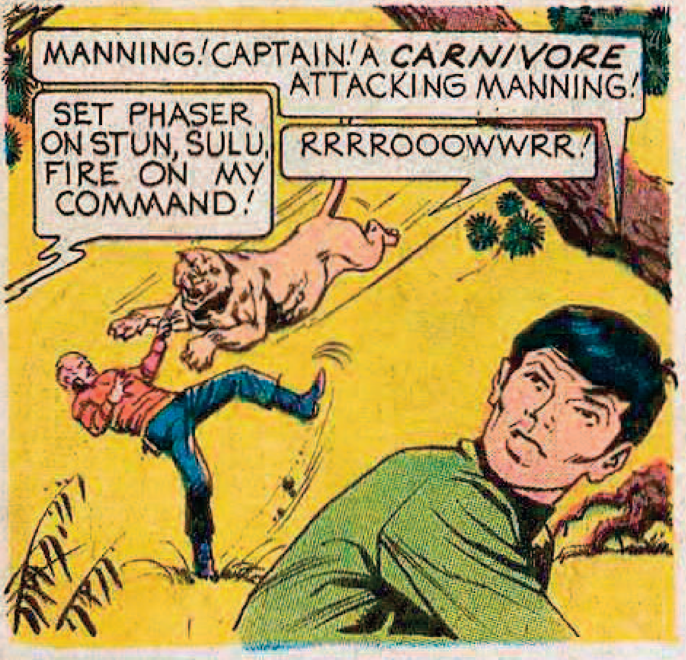
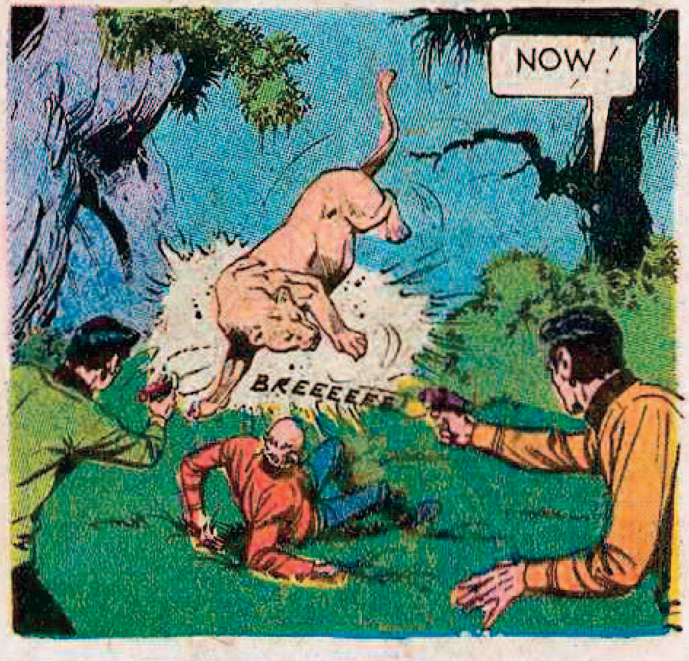

"STARDATE 30:19:12 ... THE ENTERPRISE HAD BEEN HEADING OUT ON DATA MANEUVERS TO THE UNEXPLORED TRIQUILUS REGIONS WHEN SHIP'S SENSORS REGISTERED AN OBJECT OF INCREDIBLE MASS AND WEIGHT AND ENERGY MOVING TOWARDS US, ALTHOUGH AT A VERY SLOW RATE OF SPEED!"
"THAT OBJECT WAS, OR APPEARED TO BE, A *PLANET!* ONLY, A PLANET UNLIKE ANYTHING EVER ENCOUNTERED BY A FEDERATION STARSHIP!"
CAPTAIN--THIS PLANET IS PART OF NO SYSTEM! THOSE *RINGS* SERVE THE FUNCTION OF ITS ABSENT SUN! WHAT'S MORE, THIS PLANET HAS NO ORBIT! IT'S MOVING, BUT IN A *STRAIGHT LINE!*
IT IS CLASS M--SUITABLE FOR HUMAN EXISTANCE! SENSORS INDICATE IT'S INHABITED!
CHEKOV, LOCK IN AN ORBIT -- BUT *CAREFUL* OF THOSE RINGS! I'M TAKING DOWN A LANDING PARTY!

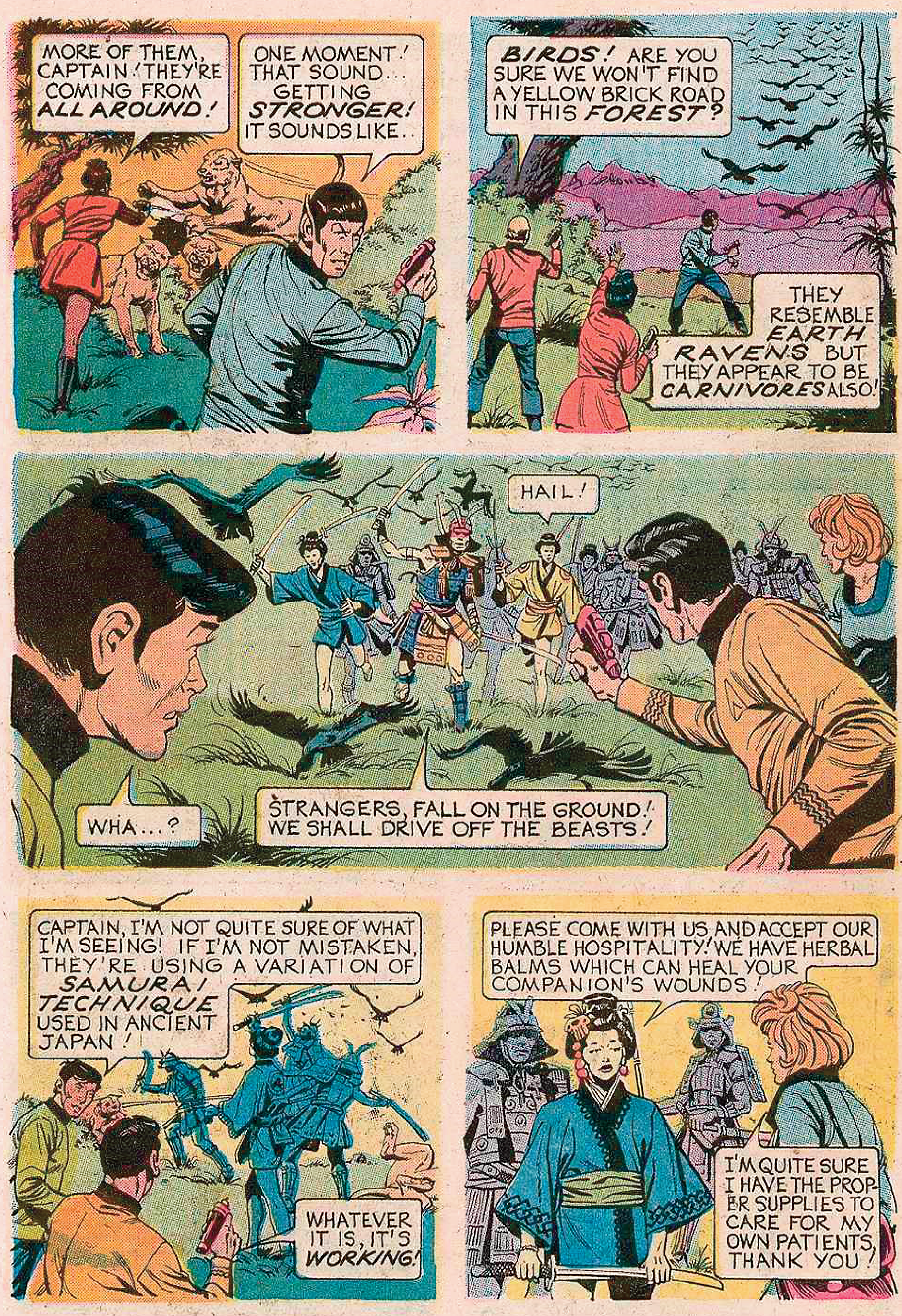

"THE LANDING PARTY I TOOK DOWN WITH ME FOR OBSERVATION PURPOSES INCLUDED SPOCK, HELMSMAN SULU, MEDICAL OFFICER CHAPEL, COMMUNICATIONS LIEUTENANT UHURU AND SECURITY OFFICER MANNING!"

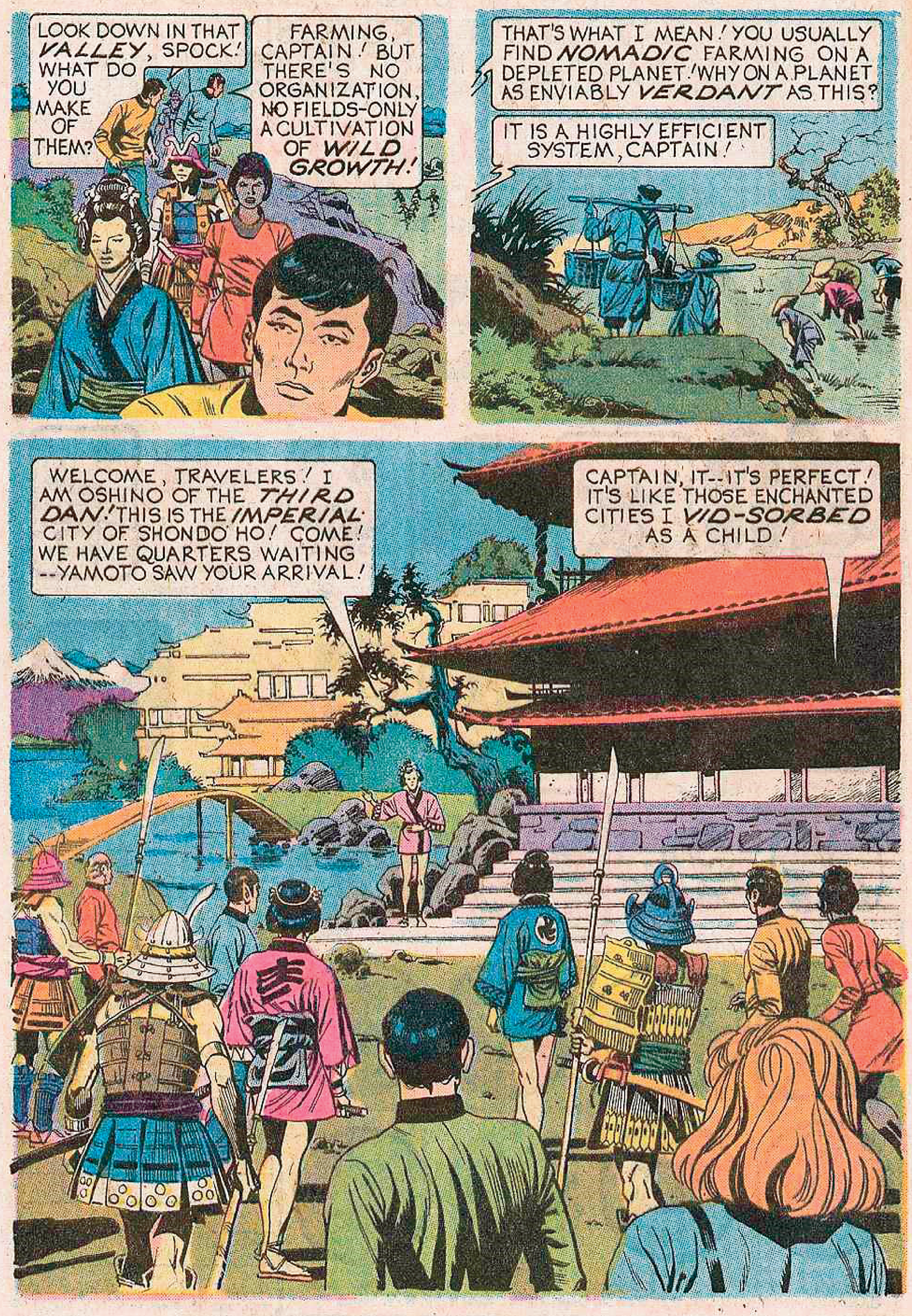

CAPTAIN--IT'S *BEAUTIFUL!* I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
YES, STUNNING! STILL, ALL THAT BEAUTY COULD BE HIDING SOMETHING --*BE ALERT!*

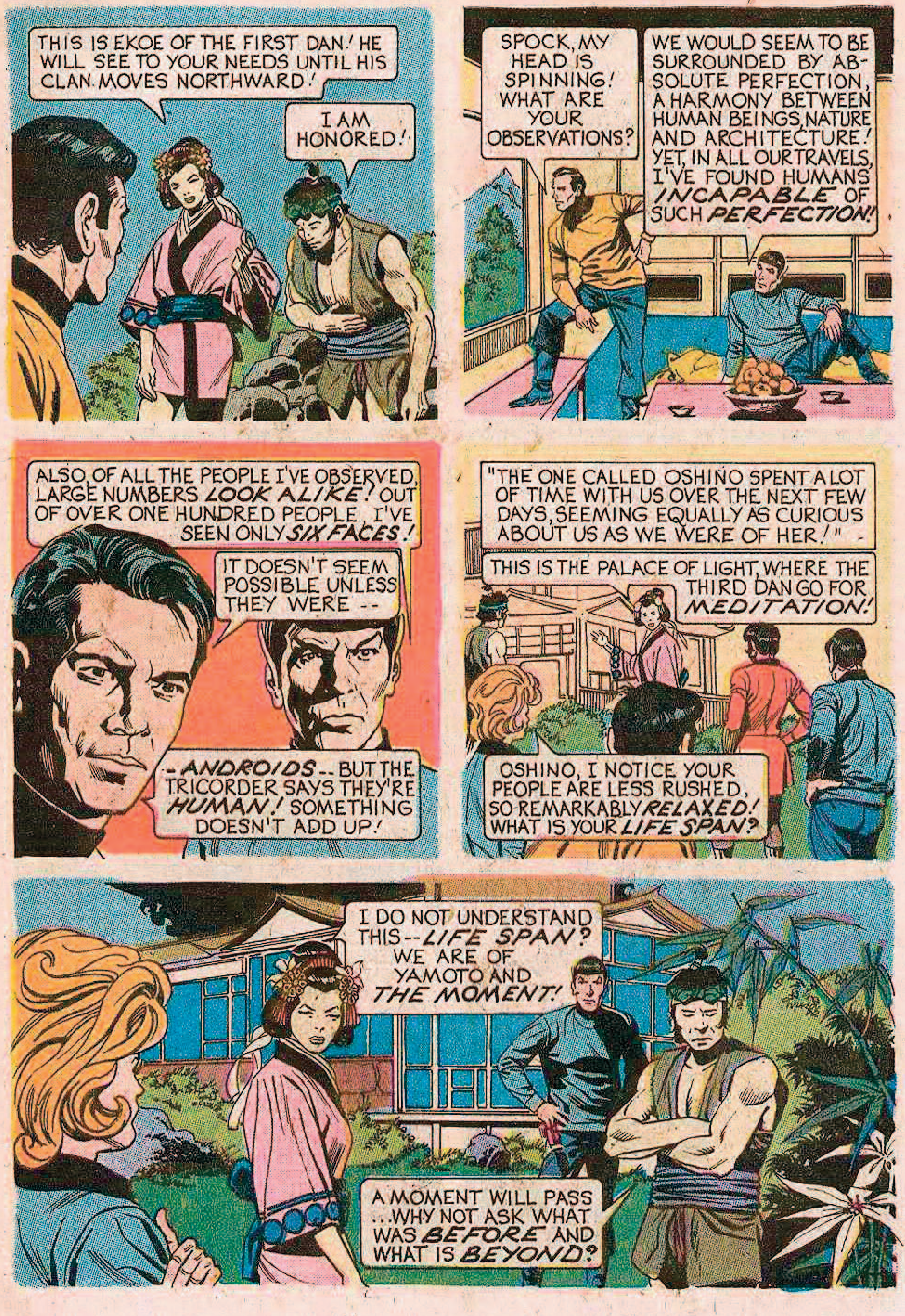

CAPTAIN, I FAIL TO GRASP WHY HUMANS CANNOT FACE BEAUTY WITHOUT DOUBTING OR DESTROYING IT ...OR BOTH!

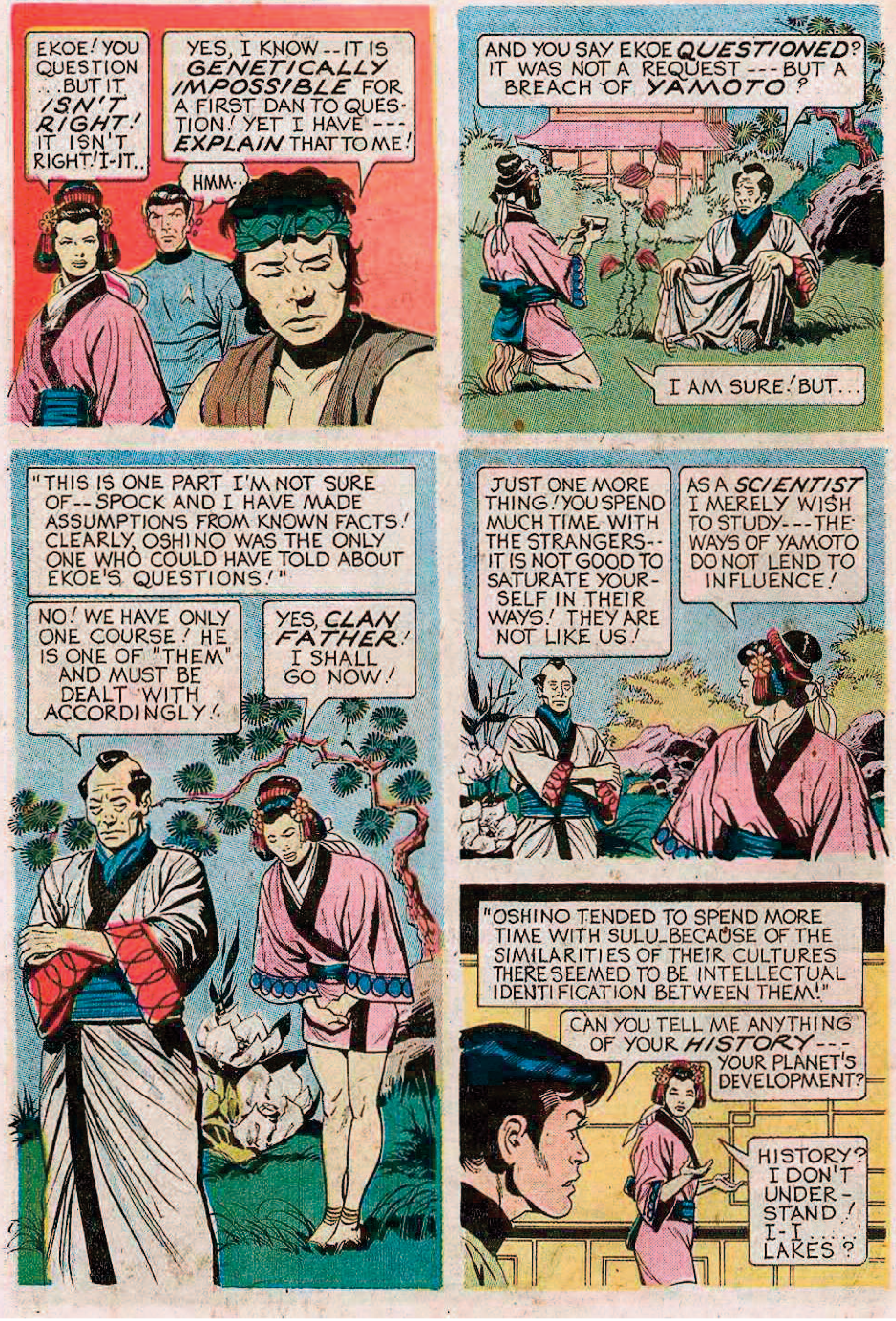

MANNING! CAPTAIN! A *CARNIVORE* ATTACKING MANNING!
SET PHASER ON STUN, SULU, FIRE ON MY COMMAND!
RRRROOOWWRR!

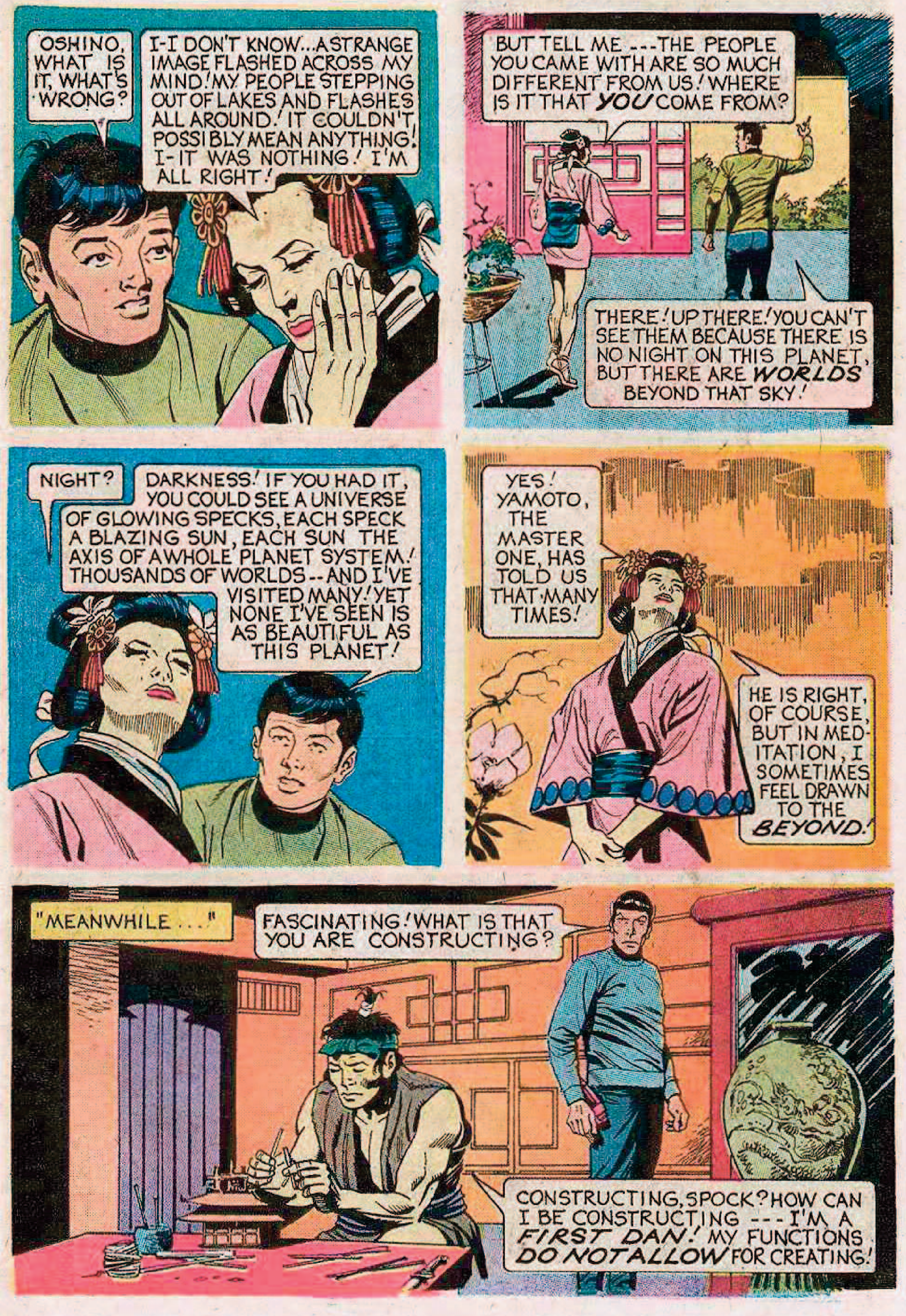

NOW!
BREEEEEP

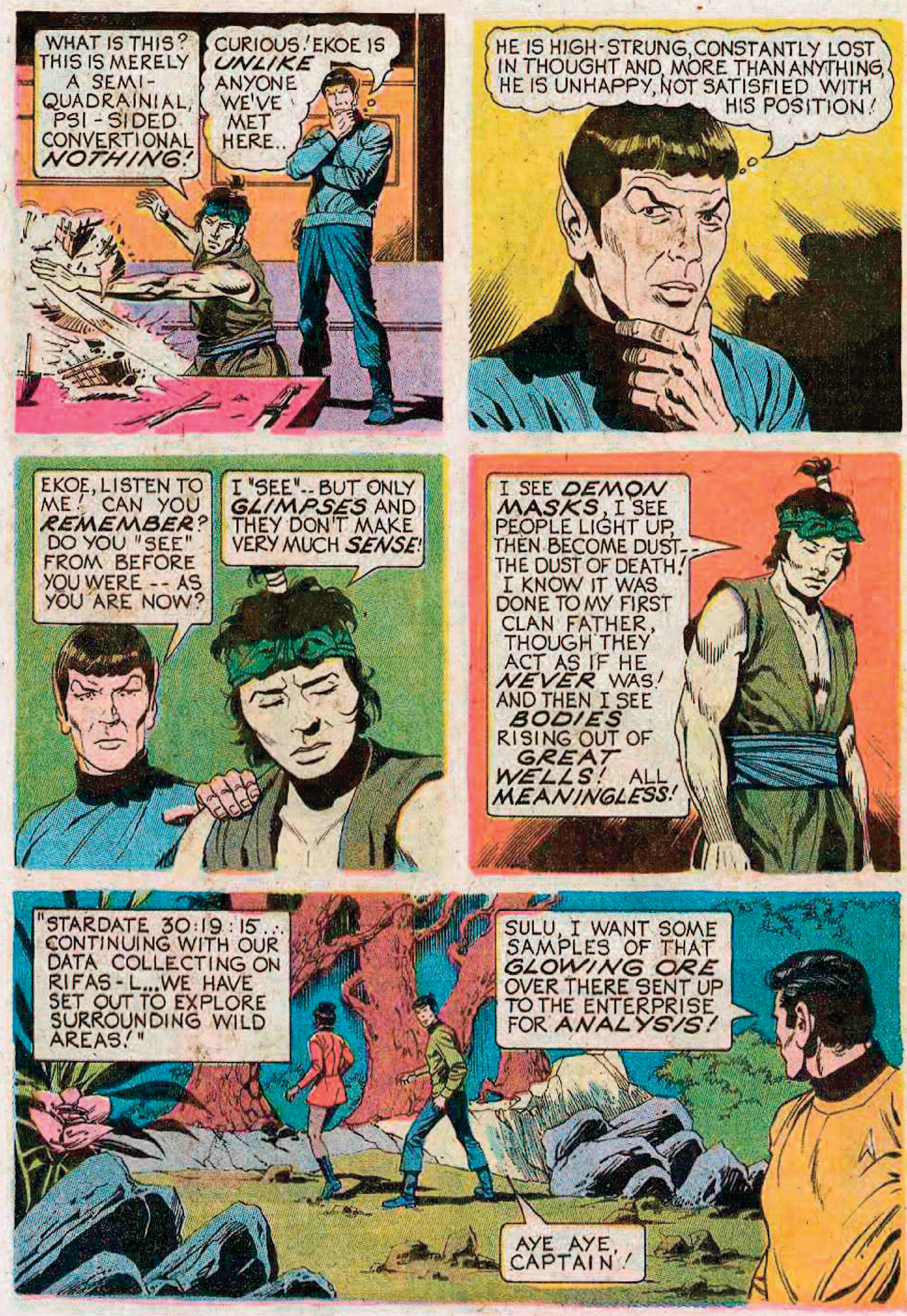

MORE OF THEM, CAPTAIN! THEY'RE COMING FROM ALL AROUND!
ONE MOMENT! THAT SOUND... GETTING STRONGER! IT SOUNDS LIKE..
BIRDS! ARE YOU SURE WE WON'T FIND A YELLOW BRICK ROAD IN THIS FOREST?
THEY RESEMBLE EARTH RAVENS BUT THEY APPEAR TO BE CARNIVORES ALSO!
HAIL!
WHA...?
STRANGERS, FALL ON THE GROUND! WE SHALL DRIVE OFF THE BEASTS!
CAPTAIN, I'M NOT QUITE SURE OF WHAT I'M SEEING! IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THEY'RE USING A VARIATION OF SAMURAI TECHNIQUE USED IN ANCIENT JAPAN!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S WORKING!
PLEASE COME WITH US AND ACCEPT OUR HUMBLE HOSPITALITY! WE HAVE HERBAL BALMS WHICH CAN HEAL YOUR COMPANION'S WOUNDS!
I'M QUITE SURE I HAVE THE PROPER SUPPLIES TO CARE FOR MY OWN PATIENTS, THANK YOU!

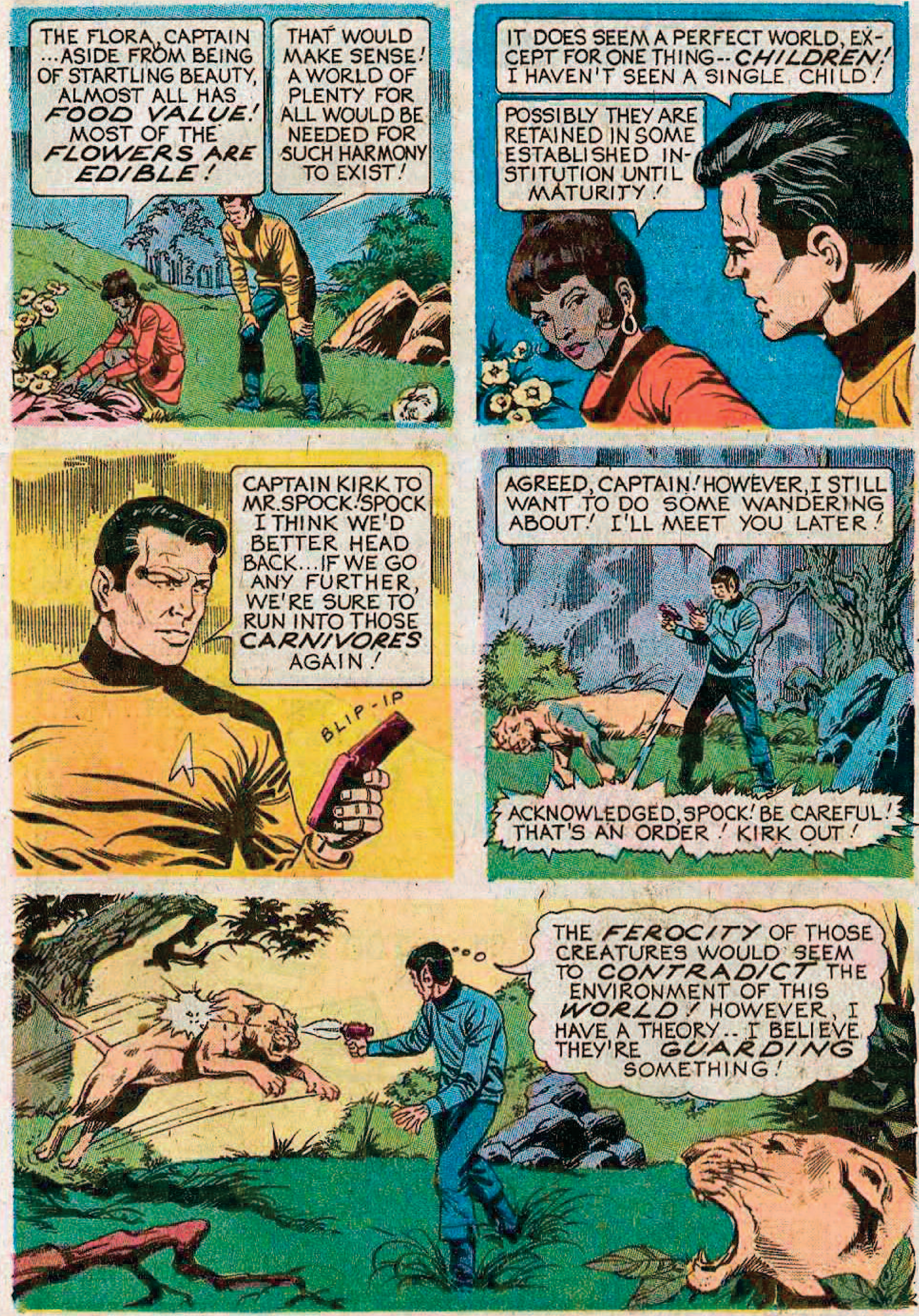

LOOK DOWN IN THAT *VALLEY*, SPOCK! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THEM?
FARMING, CAPTAIN! BUT THERE'S NO ORGANIZATION, NO FIELDS--ONLY A CULTIVATION OF *WILD GROWTH!*
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN! YOU USUALLY FIND *NOMADIC* FARMING ON A DEPLETED PLANET! WHY ON A PLANET AS ENVIABLY *VERDANT* AS THIS?
IT IS A HIGHLY EFFICIENT SYSTEM, CAPTAIN!
WELCOME, TRAVELERS! I AM OSHINO OF THE *THIRD DAN!* THIS IS THE *IMPERIAL* CITY OF SHONDO HO! COME! WE HAVE QUARTERS WAITING --YAMOTO SAW YOUR ARRIVAL!
CAPTAIN, IT--IT'S PERFECT! IT'S LIKE THOSE ENCHANTED CITIES I *VID-SORBED* AS A CHILD!

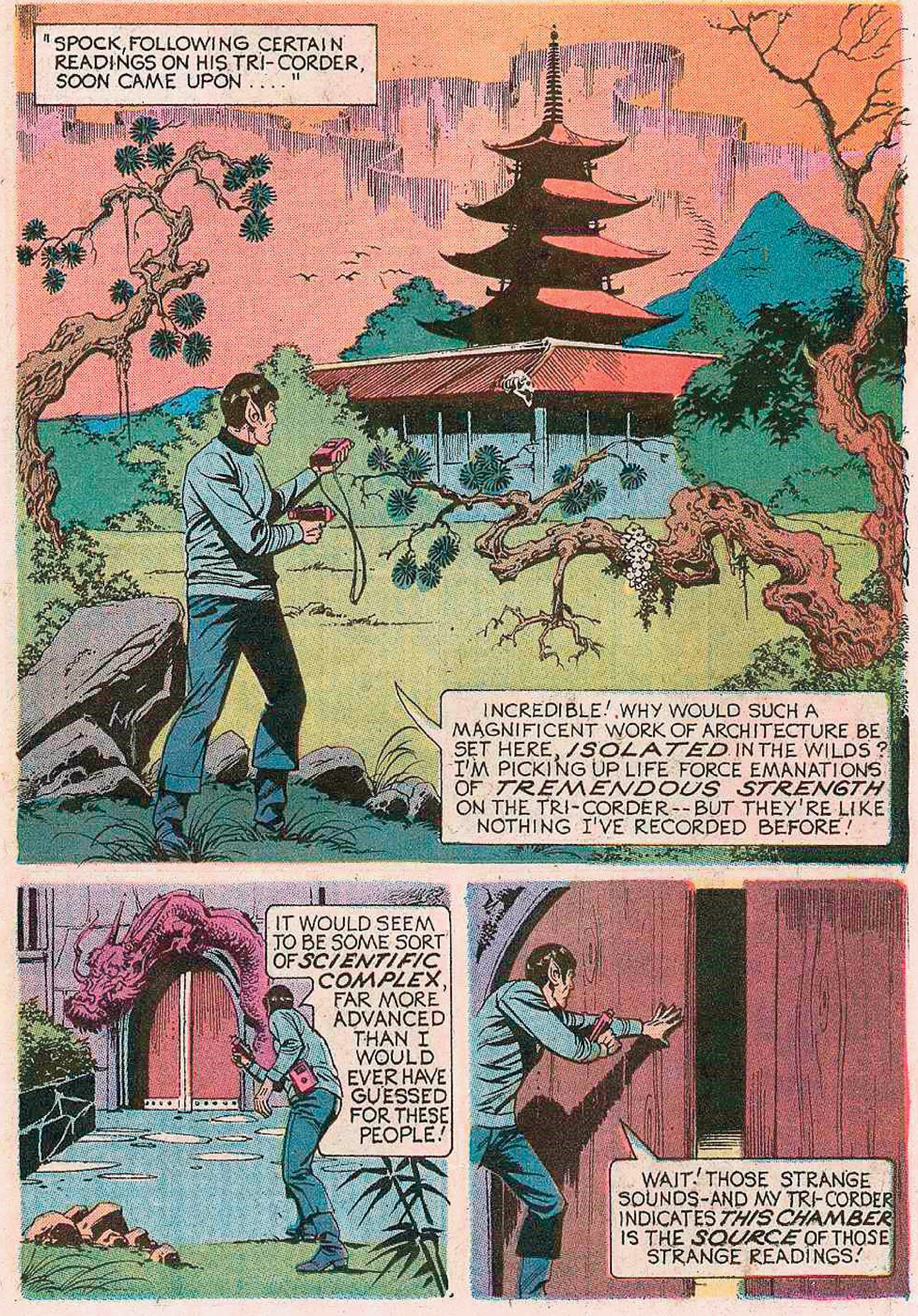

THIS IS EKOE OF THE FIRST DAN! HE WILL SEE TO YOUR NEEDS UNTIL HIS CLAN MOVES NORTHWARD!
I AM HONORED!
SPOCK, MY HEAD IS SPINNING! WHAT ARE YOUR OBSERVATIONS?
WE WOULD SEEM TO BE SURROUNDED BY ABSOLUTE PERFECTION, A HARMONY BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS, NATURE AND ARCHITECTURE! YET, IN ALL OUR TRAVELS, I'VE FOUND HUMANS *INCAPABLE* OF SUCH *PERFECTION!*
ALSO, OF ALL THE PEOPLE I'VE OBSERVED, LARGE NUMBERS *LOOK ALIKE!* OUT OF OVER ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE I'VE SEEN ONLY *SIX FACES!*
IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE UNLESS THEY WERE --
-- *ANDROIDS* -- BUT THE TRICORDER SAYS THEY'RE *HUMAN!* SOMETHING DOESN'T ADD UP!
"THE ONE CALLED OSHINO SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH US OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, SEEMING EQUALLY AS CURIOUS ABOUT US AS WE WERE OF HER!"
THIS IS THE PALACE OF LIGHT, WHERE THE THIRD DAN GO FOR *MEDITATION!*
OSHINO, I NOTICE YOUR PEOPLE ARE LESS RUSHED, SO REMARKABLY *RELAXED!* WHAT IS YOUR *LIFE SPAN?*
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS -- *LIFE SPAN?* WE ARE OF YAMOTO AND *THE MOMENT!*
A MOMENT WILL PASS ... WHY NOT ASK WHAT WAS *BEFORE* AND WHAT IS *BEYOND?*

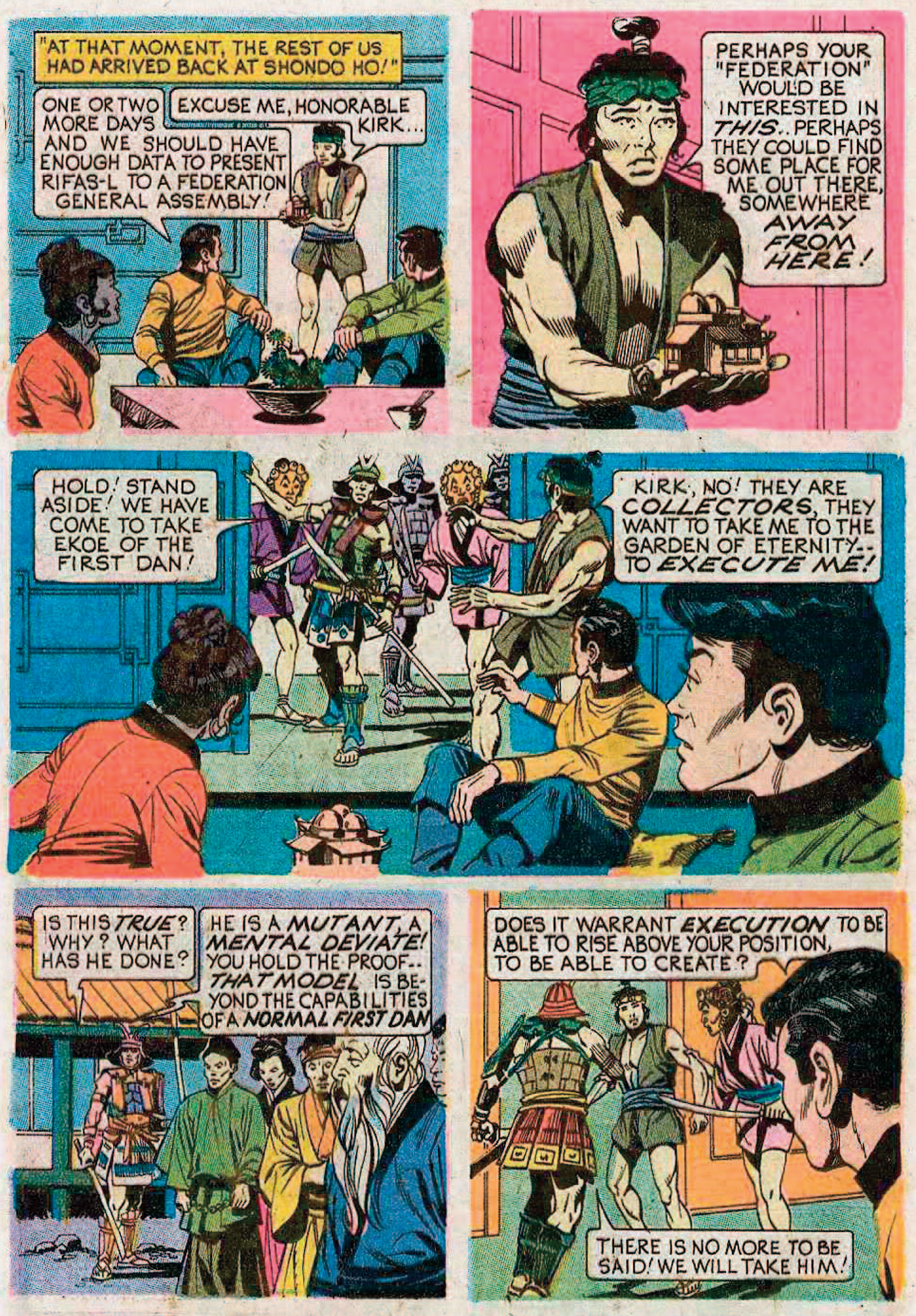

EKOE! YOU QUESTION ...BUT IT *ISN'T RIGHT!* IT ISN'T RIGHT! I-IT..
YES, I KNOW--IT IS *GENETICALLY IMPOSSIBLE* FOR A FIRST DAN TO QUESTION! YET I HAVE--- *EXPLAIN* THAT TO ME!
HMM..
AND YOU SAY EKOE *QUESTIONED*? IT WAS NOT A REQUEST---BUT A BREACH OF *YAMOTO*?
I AM SURE! BUT...
"THIS IS ONE PART I'M NOT SURE OF--SPOCK AND I HAVE MADE ASSUMPTIONS FROM KNOWN FACTS! CLEARLY, OSHINO WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE TOLD ABOUT EKOE'S QUESTIONS!"
NO! WE HAVE ONLY ONE COURSE! HE IS ONE OF "THEM" AND MUST BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY!
YES, *CLAN FATHER!* I SHALL GO NOW!
JUST ONE MORE THING! YOU SPEND MUCH TIME WITH THE STRANGERS--IT IS NOT GOOD TO SATURATE YOURSELF IN THEIR WAYS! THEY ARE NOT LIKE US!
AS A *SCIENTIST* I MERELY WISH TO STUDY---THE WAYS OF YAMOTO DO NOT LEND TO INFLUENCE!
"OSHINO TENDED TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH SULU..BECAUSE OF THE SIMILARITIES OF THEIR CULTURES THERE SEEMED TO BE INTELLECTUAL IDENTIFICATION BETWEEN THEM!"
CAN YOU TELL ME ANYTHING OF YOUR *HISTORY*---YOUR PLANET'S DEVELOPMENT?
HISTORY? I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I-I... LAKES?

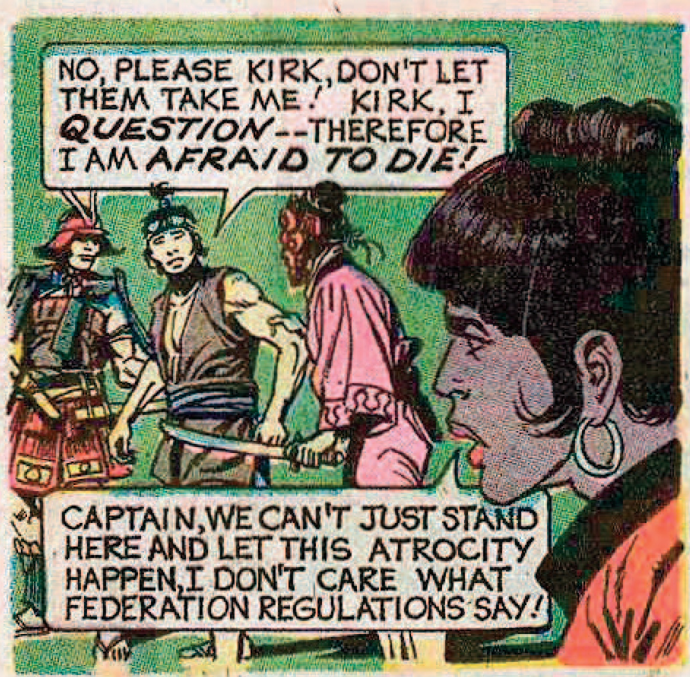

OSHINO, WHAT IS IT, WHAT'S WRONG?
I-I DON'T KNOW...A STRANGE IMAGE FLASHED ACROSS MY MIND! MY PEOPLE STEPPING OUT OF LAKES AND FLASHES ALL AROUND! IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY MEAN ANYTHING! I-IT WAS NOTHING! I'M ALL RIGHT!
BUT TELL ME --- THE PEOPLE YOU CAME WITH ARE SO MUCH DIFFERENT FROM US! WHERE IS IT THAT *YOU* COME FROM?
THERE! UP THERE! YOU CAN'T SEE THEM BECAUSE THERE IS NO NIGHT ON THIS PLANET, BUT THERE ARE *WORLDS* BEYOND THAT SKY!
NIGHT?
DARKNESS! IF YOU HAD IT, YOU COULD SEE A UNIVERSE OF GLOWING SPECKS, EACH SPECK A BLAZING SUN, EACH SUN THE AXIS OF A WHOLE PLANET SYSTEM! THOUSANDS OF WORLDS -- AND I'VE VISITED MANY! YET NONE I'VE SEEN IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS PLANET!
YES! YAMOTO, THE MASTER ONE, HAS TOLD US THAT MANY TIMES!
HE IS RIGHT, OF COURSE, BUT IN MEDITATION, I SOMETIMES FEEL DRAWN TO THE *BEYOND*!
"MEANWHILE..."
FASCINATING! WHAT IS THAT YOU ARE CONSTRUCTING?
CONSTRUCTING, SPOCK? HOW CAN I BE CONSTRUCTING --- I'M A *FIRST DAN*! MY FUNCTIONS *DO NOT ALLOW* FOR CREATING!

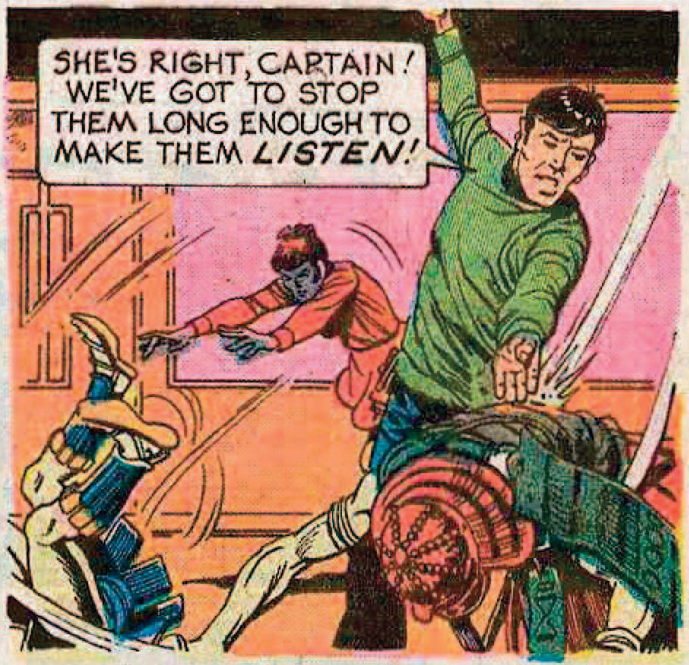

WHAT IS THIS? THIS IS MERELY A SEMI-QUADRAINIAL, PSI-SIDED CONVERTIONAL *NOTHING!*
CURIOUS! EKOE IS *UNLIKE* ANYONE WE'VE MET HERE...
HE IS HIGH-STRUNG, CONSTANTLY LOST IN THOUGHT AND, MORE THAN ANYTHING, HE IS UNHAPPY, NOT SATISFIED WITH HIS POSITION!
EKOE, LISTEN TO ME! CAN YOU *REMEMBER*? DO YOU "SEE" FROM BEFORE YOU WERE -- AS YOU ARE NOW?
I "SEE"-- BUT ONLY *GLIMPSES* AND THEY DON'T MAKE VERY MUCH *SENSE!*
I SEE *DEMON MASKS*, I SEE PEOPLE LIGHT UP, THEN BECOME DUST-- THE DUST OF DEATH! I KNOW IT WAS DONE TO MY FIRST CLAN FATHER, THOUGH THEY ACT AS IF HE *NEVER* WAS! AND THEN I SEE *BODIES* RISING OUT OF *GREAT WELLS!* ALL *MEANINGLESS!*
"STARDATE 30:19:15... CONTINUING WITH OUR DATA COLLECTING ON RIFAS-L...WE HAVE SET OUT TO EXPLORE SURROUNDING WILD AREAS!"
SULU, I WANT SOME SAMPLES OF THAT *GLOWING ORE* OVER THERE SENT UP TO THE ENTERPRISE FOR *ANALYSIS!*
AYE AYE, CAPTAIN!

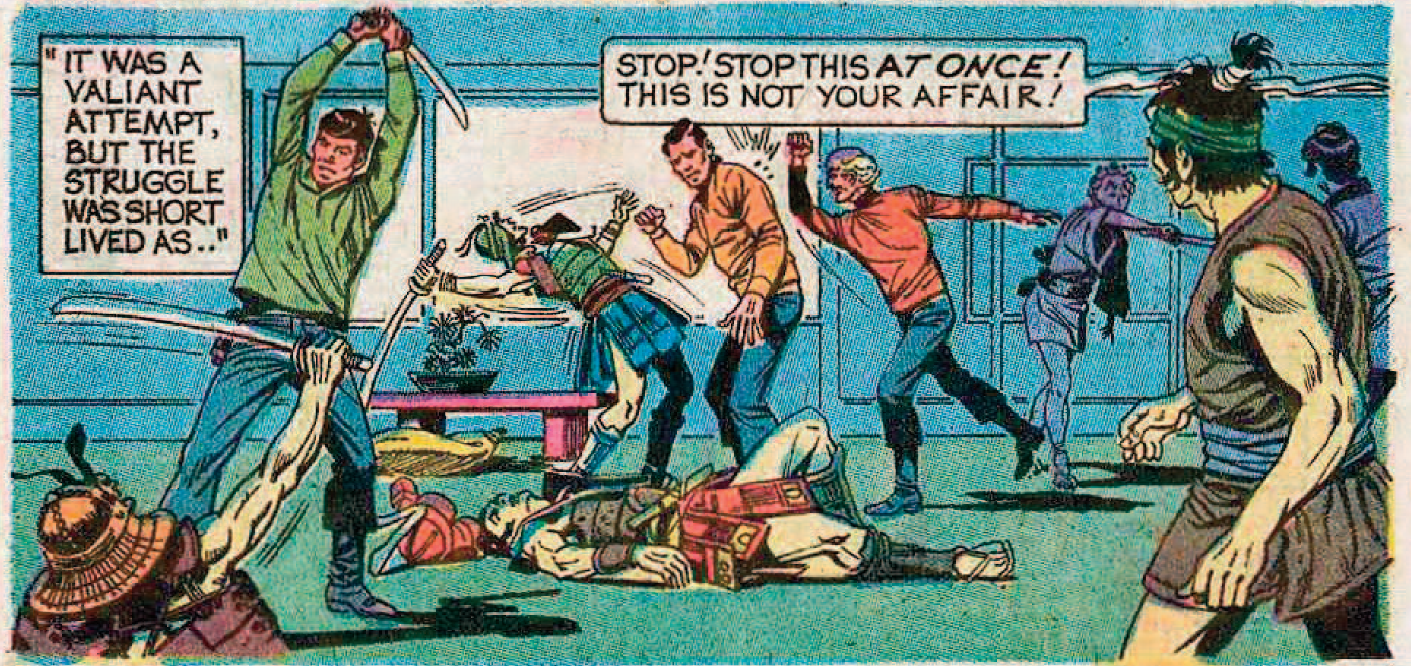

THE FLORA, CAPTAIN ...ASIDE FROM BEING OF STARTLING BEAUTY, ALMOST ALL HAS FOOD VALUE! MOST OF THE FLOWERS ARE EDIBLE!
THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE! A WORLD OF PLENTY FOR ALL WOULD BE NEEDED FOR SUCH HARMONY TO EXIST!
IT DOES SEEM A PERFECT WORLD, EXCEPT FOR ONE THING--CHILDREN! I HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE CHILD!
POSSIBLY THEY ARE RETAINED IN SOME ESTABLISHED INSTITUTION UNTIL MATURITY!
CAPTAIN KIRK TO MR. SPOCK! SPOCK I THINK WE'D BETTER HEAD BACK...IF WE GO ANY FURTHER, WE'RE SURE TO RUN INTO THOSE CARNIVORES AGAIN!
BLIP-IP
AGREED, CAPTAIN! HOWEVER, I STILL WANT TO DO SOME WANDERING ABOUT! I'LL MEET YOU LATER!
ACKNOWLEDGED, SPOCK! BE CAREFUL! THAT'S AN ORDER! KIRK OUT!
THE FEROCITY OF THOSE CREATURES WOULD SEEM TO CONTRADICT THE ENVIRONMENT OF THIS WORLD! HOWEVER, I HAVE A THEORY.. I BELIEVE THEY'RE GUARDING SOMETHING!

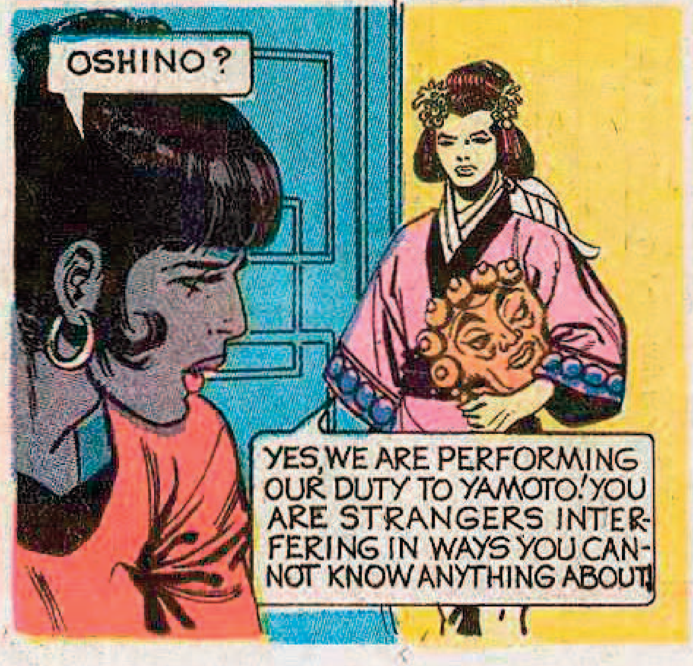

"SPOCK, FOLLOWING CERTAIN READINGS ON HIS TRI-CORDER, SOON CAME UPON . . . ."
INCREDIBLE! WHY WOULD SUCH A MAGNIFICENT WORK OF ARCHITECTURE BE SET HERE, *ISOLATED* IN THE WILDS? I'M PICKING UP LIFE FORCE EMANATIONS OF *TREMENDOUS STRENGTH* ON THE TRI-CORDER -- BUT THEY'RE LIKE NOTHING I'VE RECORDED BEFORE!
IT WOULD SEEM TO BE SOME SORT OF *SCIENTIFIC COMPLEX*, FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN I WOULD EVER HAVE GUESSED FOR THESE PEOPLE!
WAIT! THOSE STRANGE SOUNDS-AND MY TRI-CORDER INDICATES *THIS CHAMBER* IS THE *SOURCE* OF THOSE STRANGE READINGS!

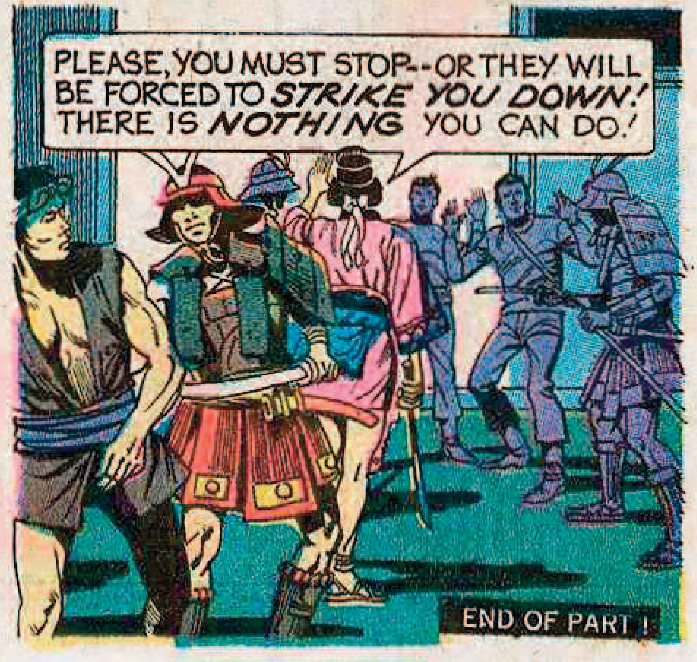

"AT THAT MOMENT, THE REST OF US HAD ARRIVED BACK AT SHONDO HO!"
ONE OR TWO MORE DAYS AND WE SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH DATA TO PRESENT RIFAS-L TO A FEDERATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY!
EXCUSE ME, HONORABLE KIRK...
PERHAPS YOUR "FEDERATION" WOULD BE INTERESTED IN *THIS*.. PERHAPS THEY COULD FIND SOME PLACE FOR ME OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE *AWAY FROM HERE!*
HOLD! STAND ASIDE! WE HAVE COME TO TAKE EKOE OF THE FIRST DAN!
KIRK, NO! THEY ARE *COLLECTORS*, THEY WANT TO TAKE ME TO THE GARDEN OF ETERNITY.. TO *EXECUTE ME!*
IS THIS *TRUE*? WHY? WHAT HAS HE DONE?
HE IS A *MUTANT*, A *MENTAL DEVIATE!* YOU HOLD THE PROOF.. *THAT MODEL* IS BEYOND THE CAPABILITIES OF A *NORMAL FIRST DAN*
DOES IT WARRANT *EXECUTION* TO BE ABLE TO RISE ABOVE YOUR POSITION, TO BE ABLE TO CREATE?
THERE IS NO MORE TO BE SAID! WE WILL TAKE HIM!

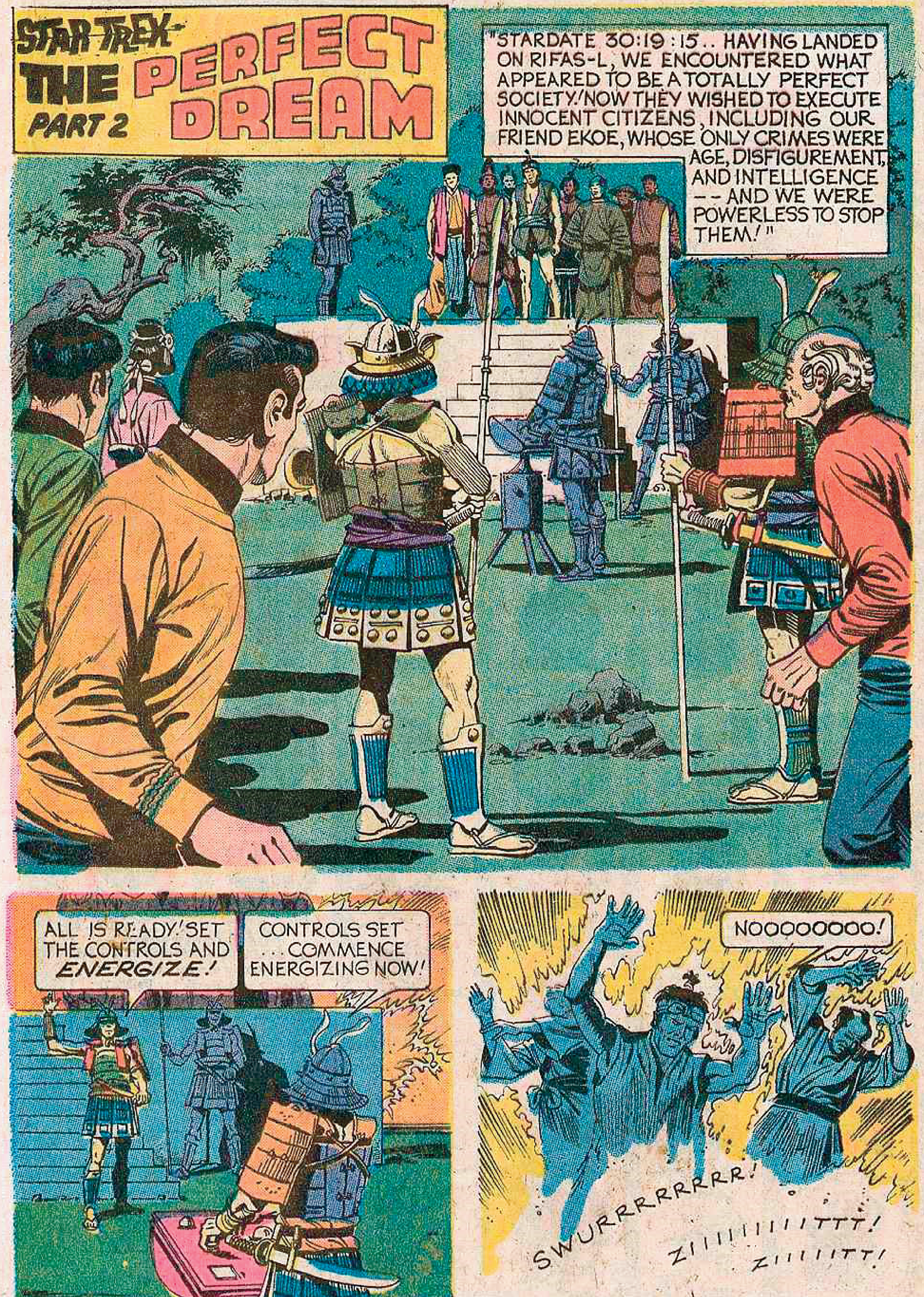

NO, PLEASE KIRK, DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME! KIRK, I *QUESTION*--THEREFORE I AM *AFRAID TO DIE!*
CAPTAIN, WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE AND LET THIS ATROCITY HAPPEN, I DON'T CARE WHAT FEDERATION REGULATIONS SAY!

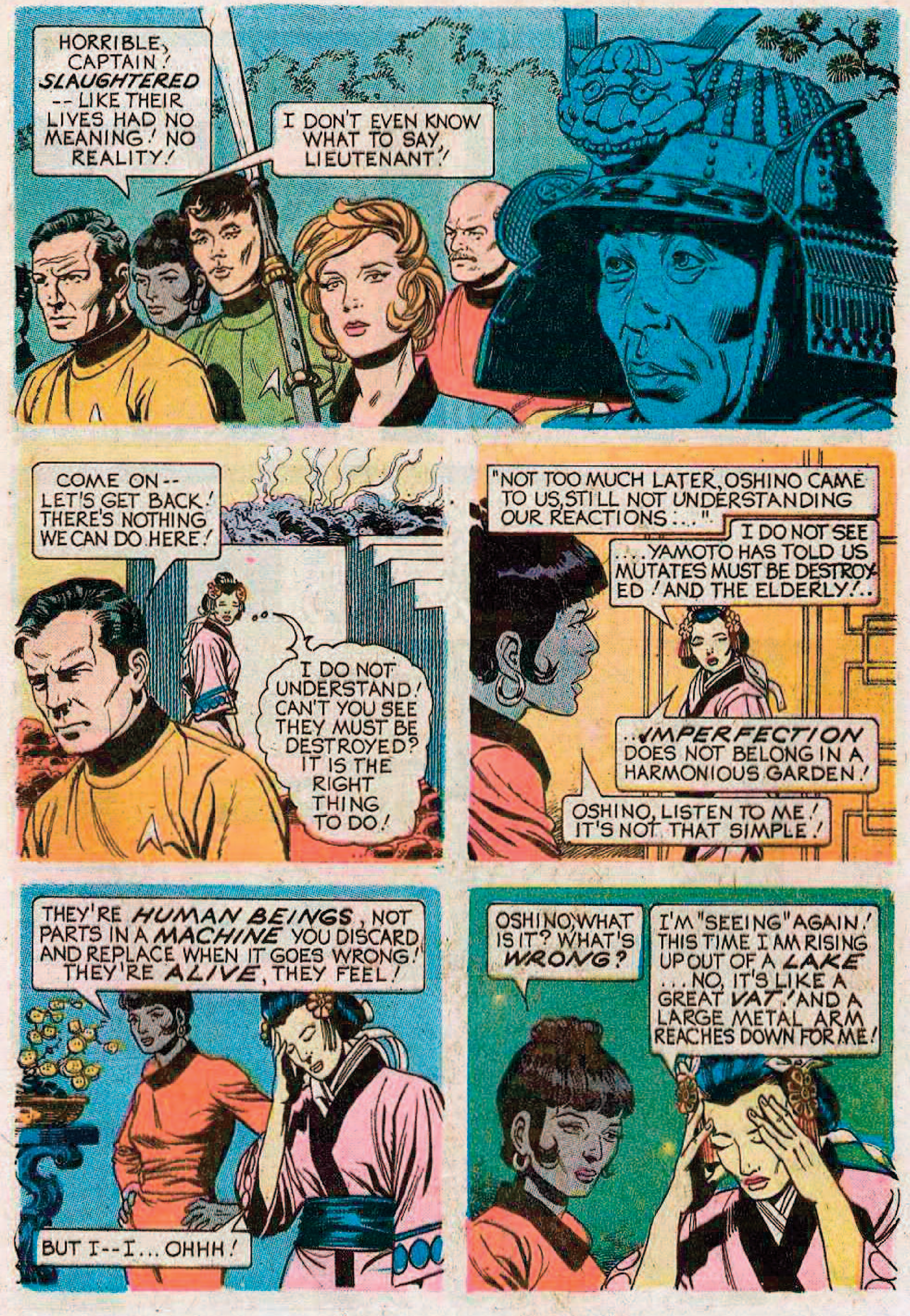

SHE'S RIGHT, CAPTAIN! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM *LISTEN!*

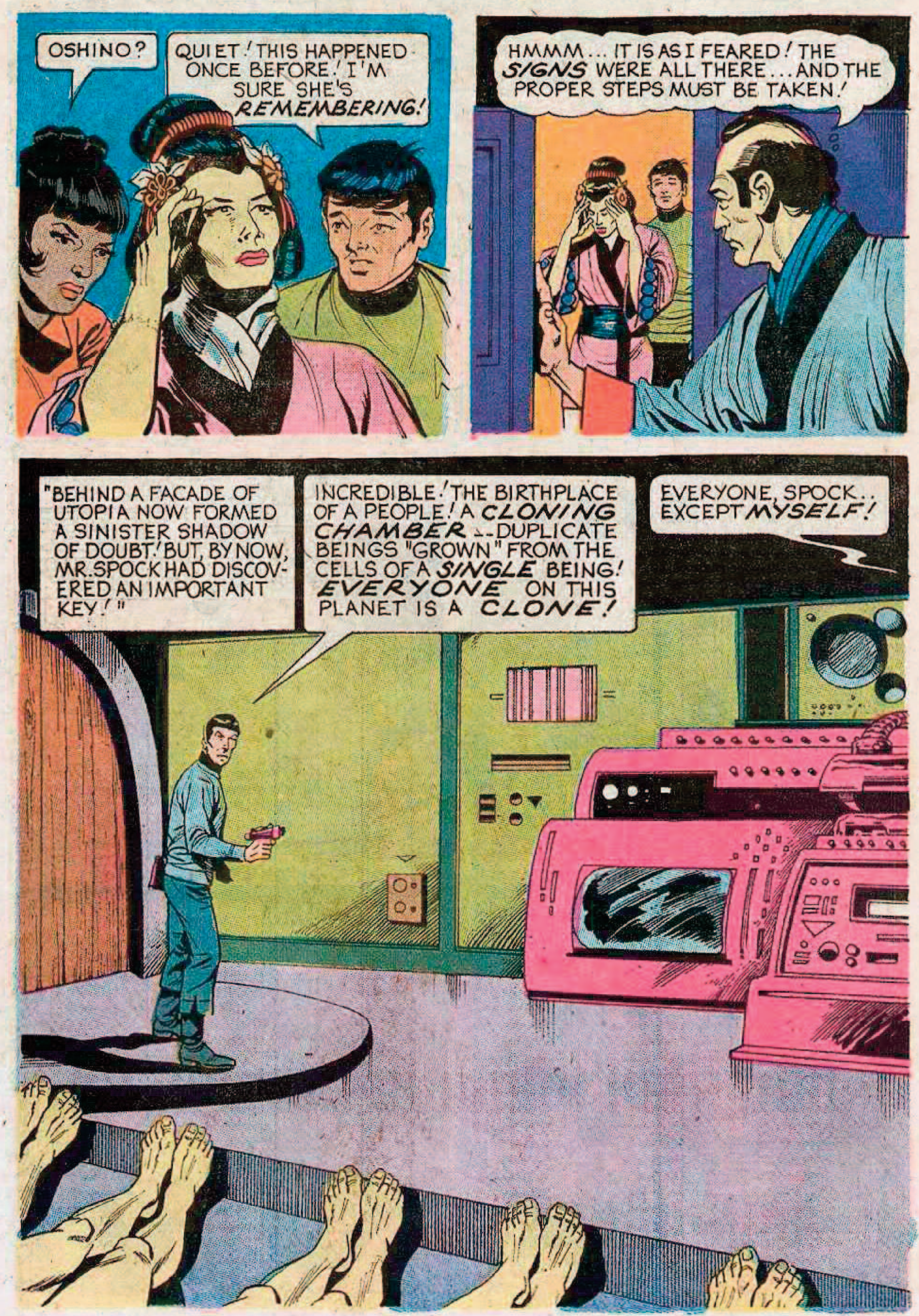

"IT WAS A VALIANT ATTEMPT, BUT THE STRUGGLE WAS SHORT LIVED AS.."
STOP! STOP THIS *AT ONCE!* THIS IS NOT YOUR AFFAIR!

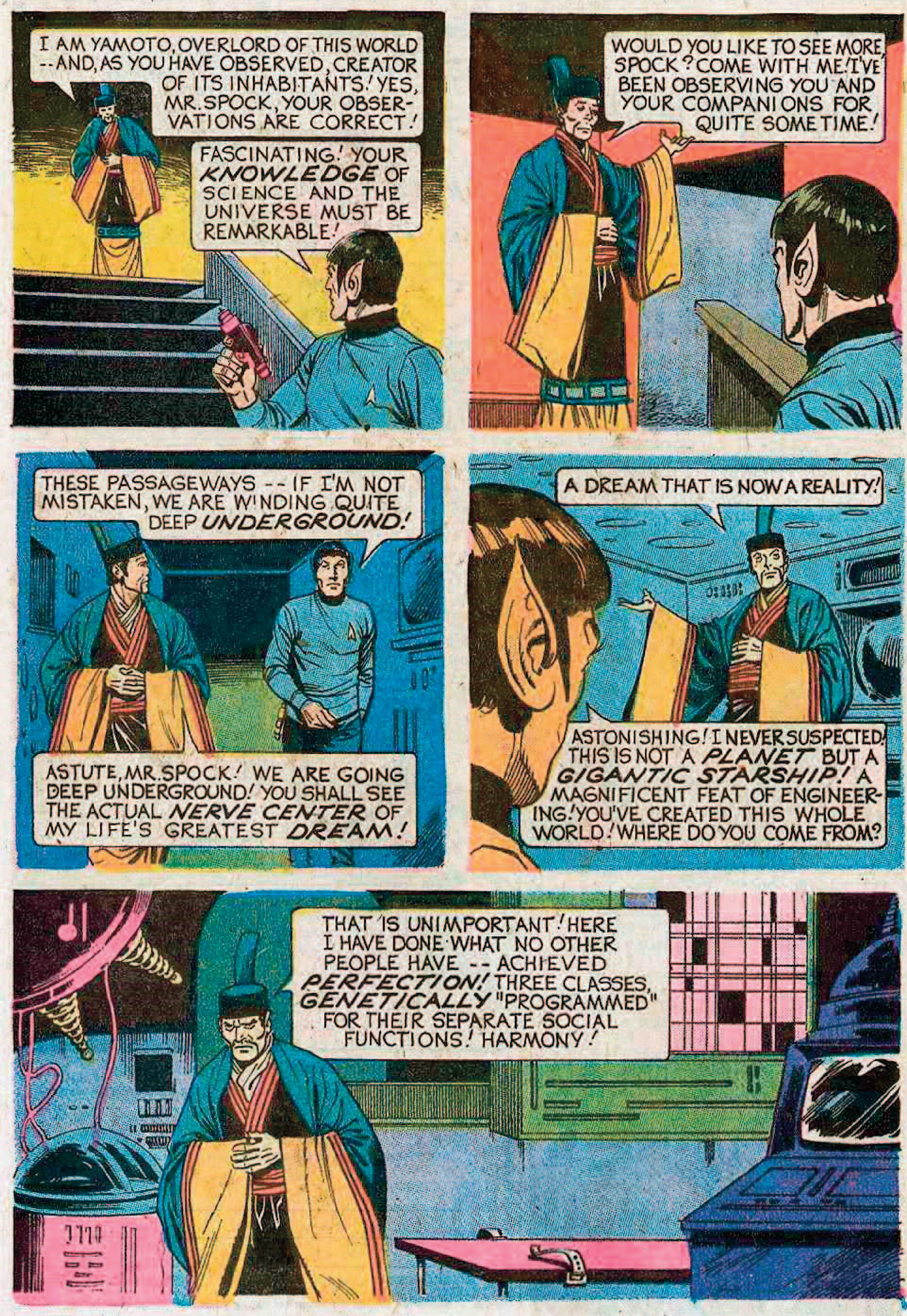

OSHINO?
YES, WE ARE PERFORMING OUR DUTY TO YAMOTO! YOU ARE STRANGERS INTERFERING IN WAYS YOU CANNOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT!

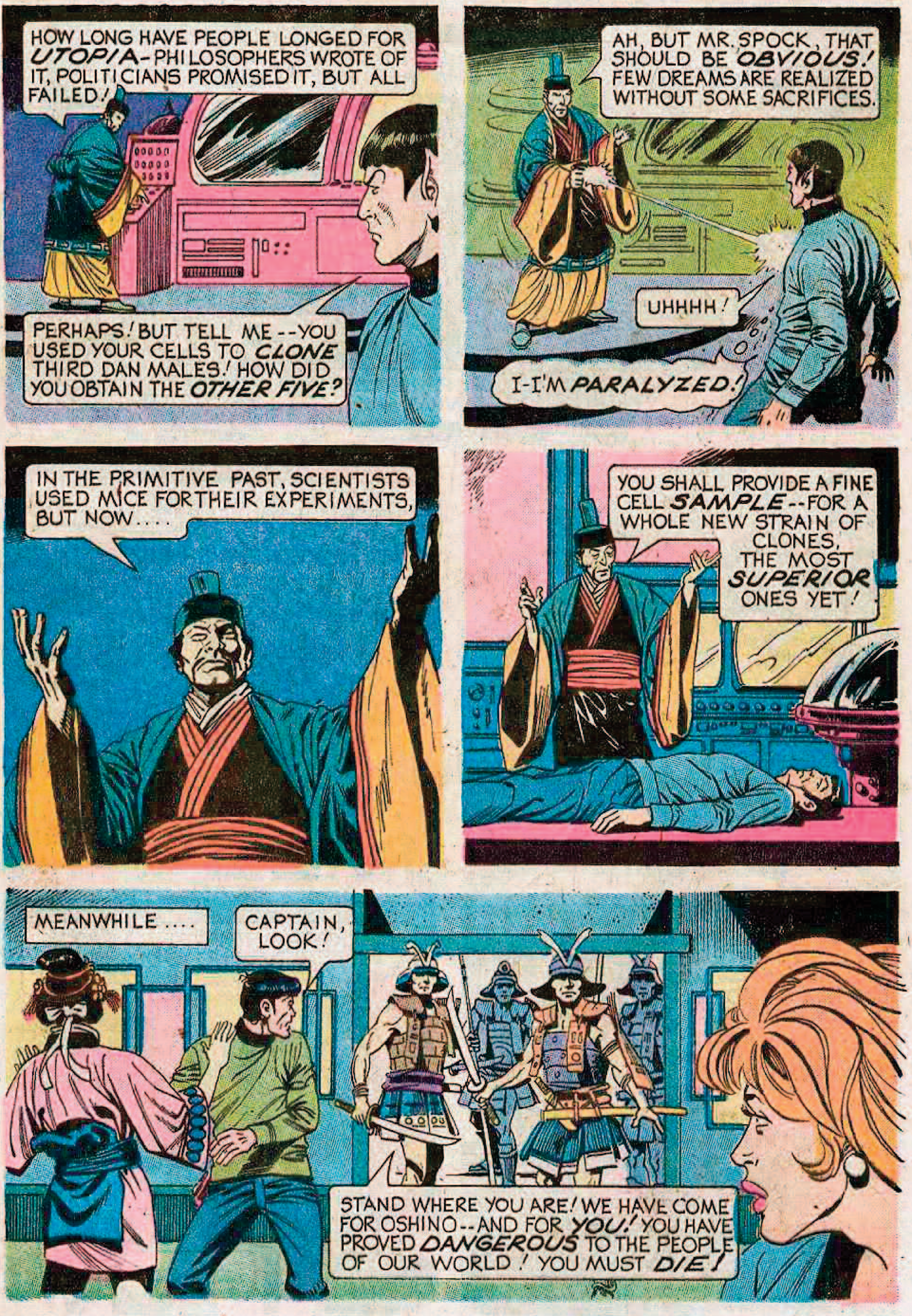

PLEASE, YOU MUST STOP--OR THEY WILL BE FORCED TO *STRIKE YOU DOWN!* THERE IS *NOTHING* YOU CAN DO!
END OF PART I

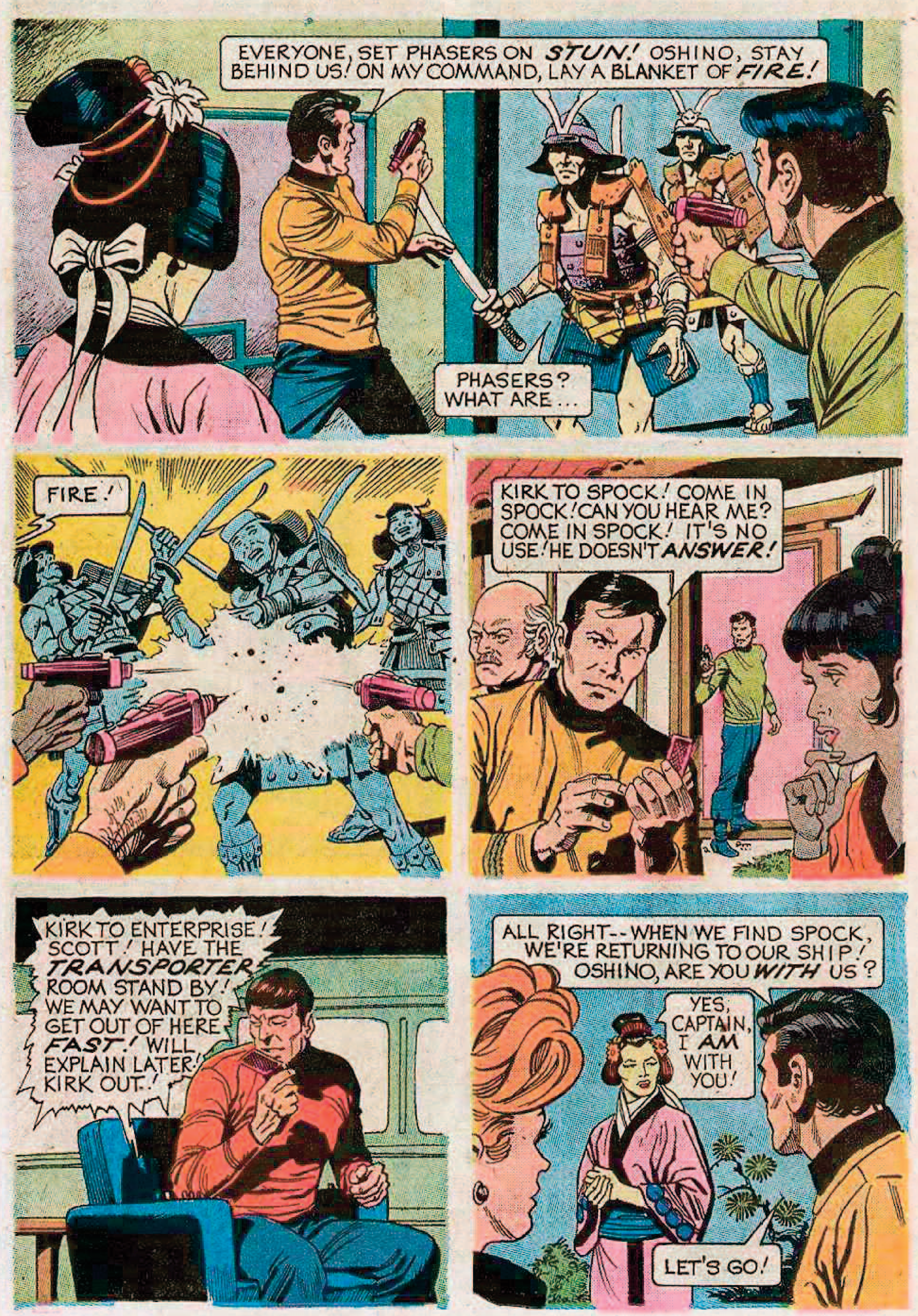

STAR TREK
THE PERFECT DREAM
PART 2
"STARDATE 30:19:15.. HAVING LANDED ON RIFAS-L, WE ENCOUNTERED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A TOTALLY PERFECT SOCIETY! NOW THEY WISHED TO EXECUTE INNOCENT CITIZENS, INCLUDING OUR FRIEND EKOE, WHOSE ONLY CRIMES WERE AGE, DISFIGUREMENT, AND INTELLIGENCE -- AND WE WERE POWERLESS TO STOP THEM!"
ALL IS READY! SET THE CONTROLS AND *ENERGIZE!*
CONTROLS SET ...COMMENCE ENERGIZING NOW!
NOOOOOOOO!
SWURRRRRRRR!
ZIIIIIIIIITTT!
ZIIIIITT!

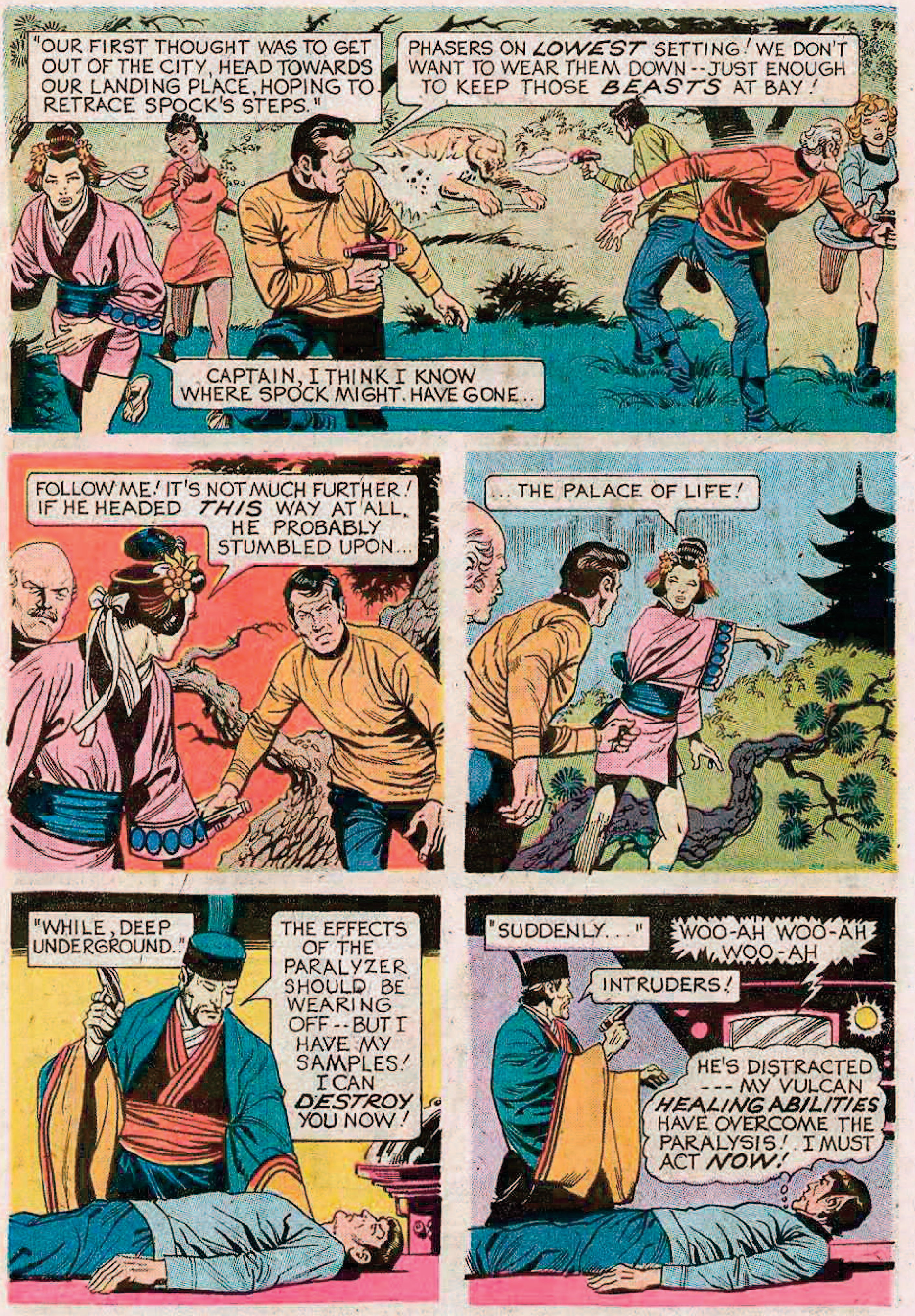

HORRIBLE, CAPTAIN! *SLAUGHTERED* -- LIKE THEIR LIVES HAD NO MEANING! NO REALITY!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY, LIEUTENANT!
COME ON -- LET'S GET BACK! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO HERE!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! CAN'T YOU SEE THEY MUST BE DESTROYED? IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!
"NOT TOO MUCH LATER, OSHINO CAME TO US, STILL NOT UNDERSTANDING OUR REACTIONS...".
I DO NOT SEE ...YAMOTO HAS TOLD US MUTATES MUST BE DESTROYED! AND THE ELDERLY!..
..*IMPERFECTION* DOES NOT BELONG IN A HARMONIOUS GARDEN!
OSHINO, LISTEN TO ME! IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!
THEY'RE *HUMAN BEINGS*, NOT PARTS IN A *MACHINE* YOU DISCARD AND REPLACE WHEN IT GOES WRONG! THEY'RE *ALIVE*, THEY FEEL!
BUT I--I...OHHH!
OSHINO, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S *WRONG?*
I'M "SEEING" AGAIN! THIS TIME I AM RISING UP OUT OF A *LAKE* ...NO, IT'S LIKE A GREAT *VAT!* AND A LARGE METAL ARM REACHES DOWN FOR ME!

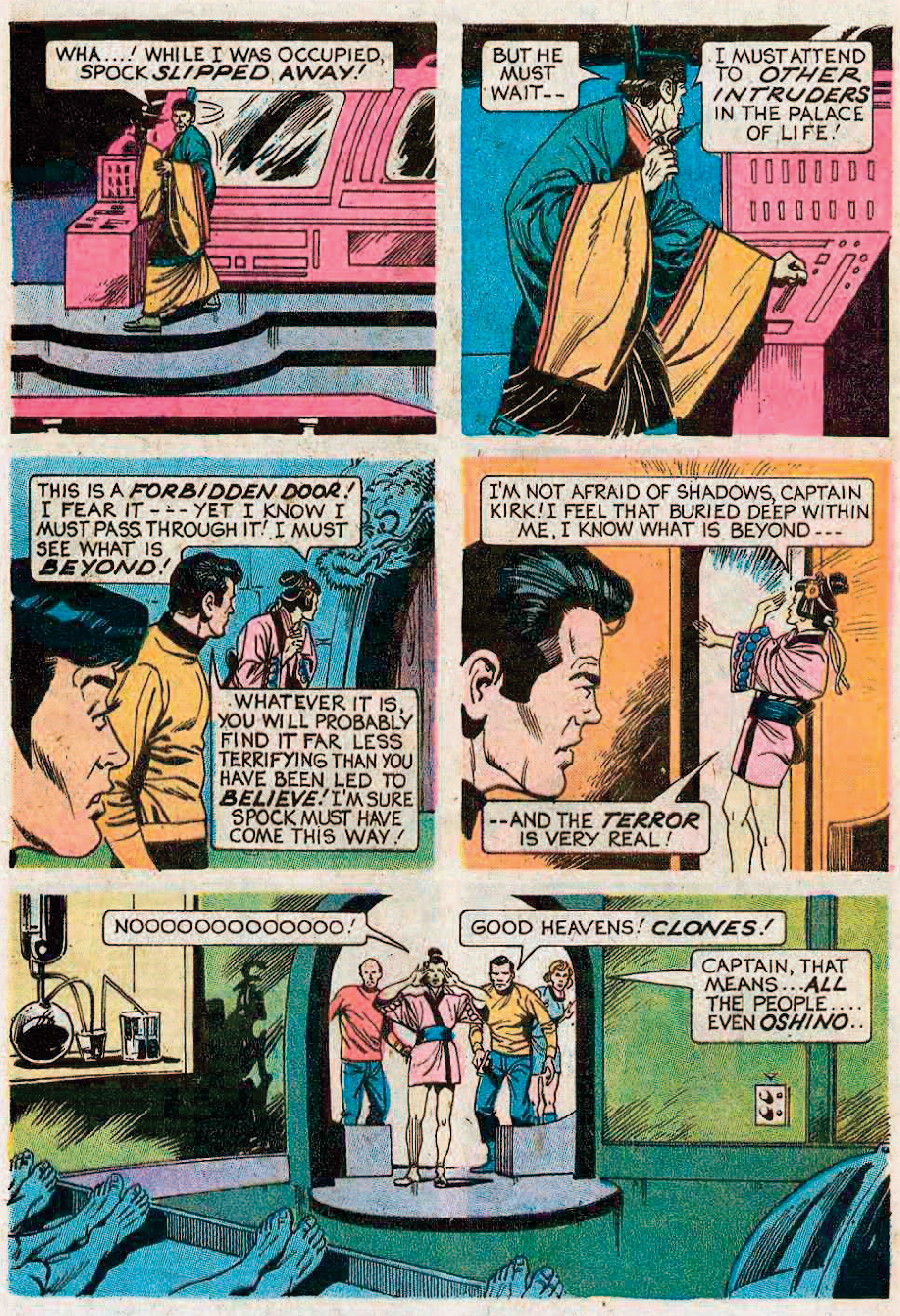

OSHINO?
QUIET! THIS HAPPENED ONCE BEFORE! I'M SURE SHE'S *REMEMBERING!*
HMMM... IT IS AS I FEARED! THE *SIGNS* WERE ALL THERE... AND THE PROPER STEPS MUST BE TAKEN!
"BEHIND A FACADE OF UTOPIA NOW FORMED A SINISTER SHADOW OF DOUBT! BUT, BY NOW, MR. SPOCK HAD DISCOVERED AN IMPORTANT KEY!"
INCREDIBLE! THE BIRTHPLACE OF A PEOPLE! A *CLONING CHAMBER* -- DUPLICATE BEINGS "GROWN" FROM THE CELLS OF A *SINGLE* BEING! *EVERYONE* ON THIS PLANET IS A *CLONE!*
EVERYONE, SPOCK.. EXCEPT *MYSELF!*

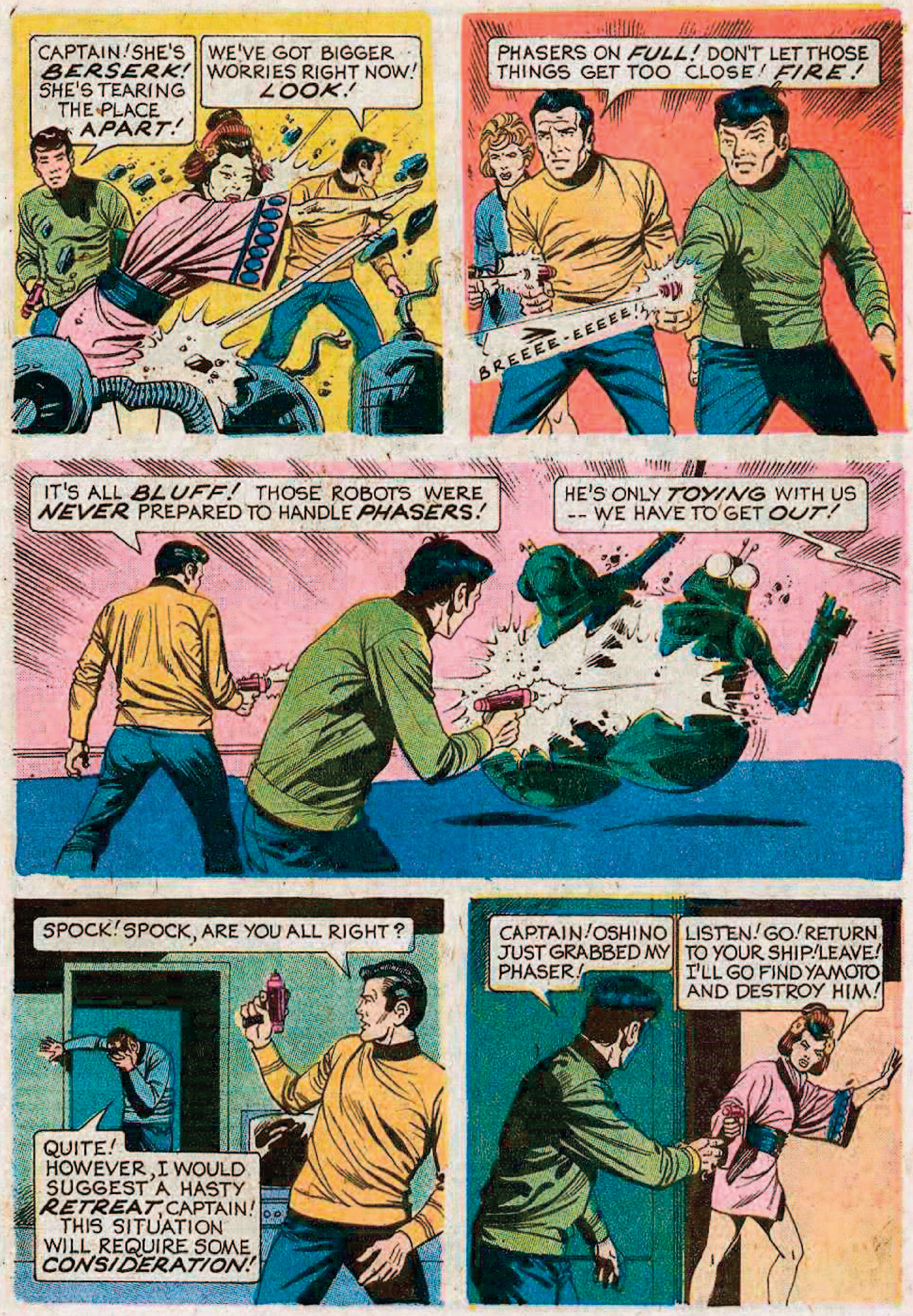

I AM YAMOTO, OVERLORD OF THIS WORLD -- AND, AS YOU HAVE OBSERVED, CREATOR OF ITS INHABITANTS! YES, MR. SPOCK, YOUR OBSERVATIONS ARE CORRECT!
FASCINATING! YOUR *KNOWLEDGE* OF SCIENCE AND THE UNIVERSE MUST BE REMARKABLE!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE, SPOCK? COME WITH ME! I'VE BEEN OBSERVING YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS FOR QUITE SOME TIME!
THESE PASSAGEWAYS -- IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, WE ARE WINDING QUITE DEEP *UNDERGROUND!*
ASTUTE, MR. SPOCK! WE ARE GOING DEEP UNDERGROUND! YOU SHALL SEE THE ACTUAL *NERVE CENTER* OF MY LIFE'S GREATEST *DREAM!*
A DREAM THAT IS NOW A REALITY!
ASTONISHING! I NEVER SUSPECTED! THIS IS NOT A *PLANET* BUT A *GIGANTIC STARSHIP!* A MAGNIFICENT FEAT OF ENGINEERING! YOU'VE CREATED THIS WHOLE WORLD! WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
THAT IS UNIMPORTANT! HERE I HAVE DONE WHAT NO OTHER PEOPLE HAVE -- ACHIEVED *PERFECTION!* THREE CLASSES, *GENETICALLY* "PROGRAMMED" FOR THEIR SEPARATE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS! HARMONY!

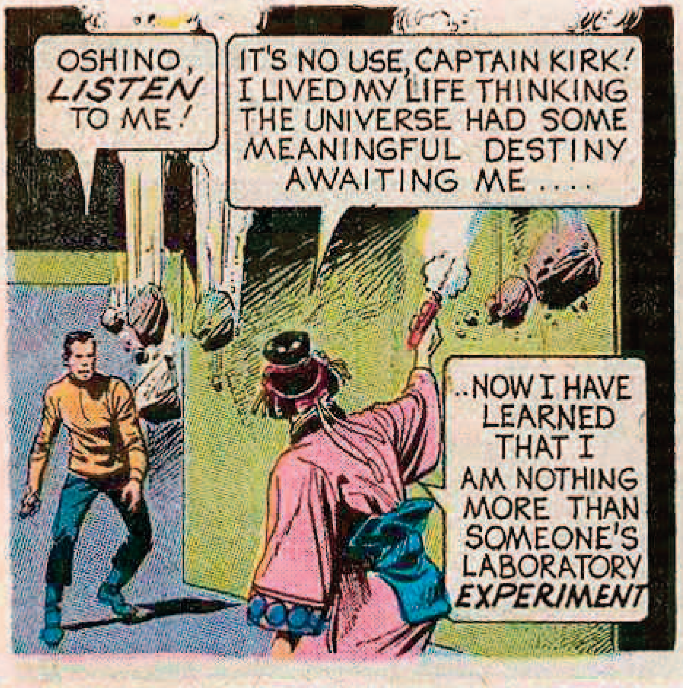

HOW LONG HAVE PEOPLE LONGED FOR *UTOPIA*-PHILOSOPHERS WROTE OF IT, POLITICIANS PROMISED IT, BUT ALL FAILED!
PERHAPS! BUT TELL ME--YOU USED YOUR CELLS TO *CLONE* THIRD DAN MALES! HOW DID YOU OBTAIN THE *OTHER FIVE*?
AH, BUT MR. SPOCK, THAT SHOULD BE *OBVIOUS!* FEW DREAMS ARE REALIZED WITHOUT SOME SACRIFICES.
UHHHH!
I-I'M *PARALYZED!*
IN THE PRIMITIVE PAST, SCIENTISTS USED MICE FOR THEIR EXPERIMENTS, BUT NOW....
YOU SHALL PROVIDE A FINE CELL *SAMPLE*--FOR A WHOLE NEW STRAIN OF CLONES, THE MOST *SUPERIOR* ONES YET!
MEANWHILE....
CAPTAIN, LOOK!
STAND WHERE YOU ARE! WE HAVE COME FOR OSHINO--AND FOR *YOU!* YOU HAVE PROVED *DANGEROUS* TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR WORLD! YOU MUST *DIE!*

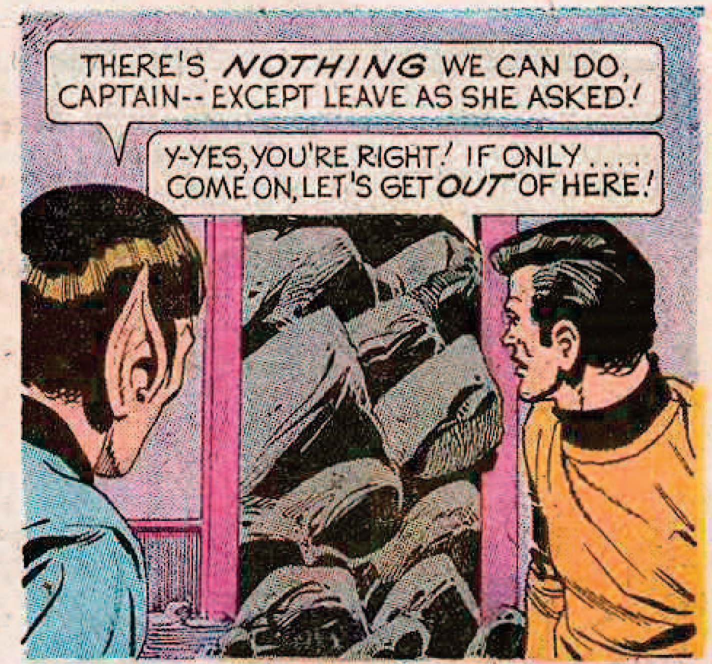

EVERYONE, SET PHASERS ON STUN! OSHINO, STAY BEHIND US! ON MY COMMAND, LAY A BLANKET OF FIRE!
PHASERS? WHAT ARE...
FIRE!
KIRK TO SPOCK! COME IN SPOCK! CAN YOU HEAR ME? COME IN SPOCK! IT'S NO USE! HE DOESN'T ANSWER!
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE! SCOTT! HAVE THE TRANSPORTER ROOM STAND BY! WE MAY WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST! WILL EXPLAIN LATER! KIRK OUT!
ALL RIGHT--WHEN WE FIND SPOCK, WE'RE RETURNING TO OUR SHIP! OSHINO, ARE YOU WITH US?
YES, CAPTAIN, I AM WITH YOU!
LET'S GO!

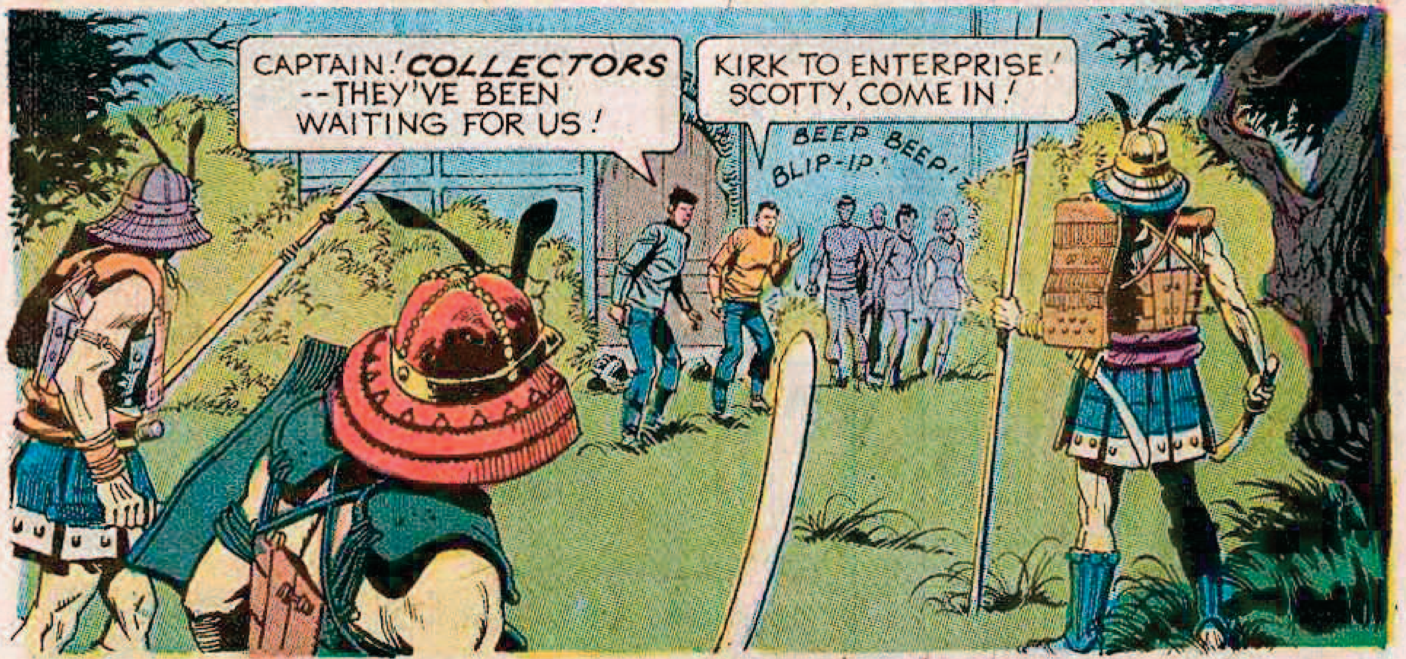

"OUR FIRST THOUGHT WAS TO GET OUT OF THE CITY, HEAD TOWARDS OUR LANDING PLACE, HOPING TO RETRACE SPOCK'S STEPS."
PHASERS ON *LOWEST* SETTING! WE DON'T WANT TO WEAR THEM DOWN -- JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THOSE *BEASTS* AT BAY!
CAPTAIN, I THINK I KNOW WHERE SPOCK MIGHT HAVE GONE..
FOLLOW ME! IT'S NOT MUCH FURTHER! IF HE HEADED *THIS* WAY AT ALL, HE PROBABLY STUMBLED UPON...
...THE PALACE OF LIFE!
"WHILE, DEEP UNDERGROUND."
THE EFFECTS OF THE PARALYZER SHOULD BE WEARING OFF -- BUT I HAVE MY SAMPLES! I CAN *DESTROY* YOU NOW!
"SUDDENLY..."
WOO-AH WOO-AH WOO-AH
INTRUDERS!
HE'S DISTRACTED --- MY VULCAN *HEALING ABILITIES* HAVE OVERCOME THE PARALYSIS! I MUST ACT *NOW!*

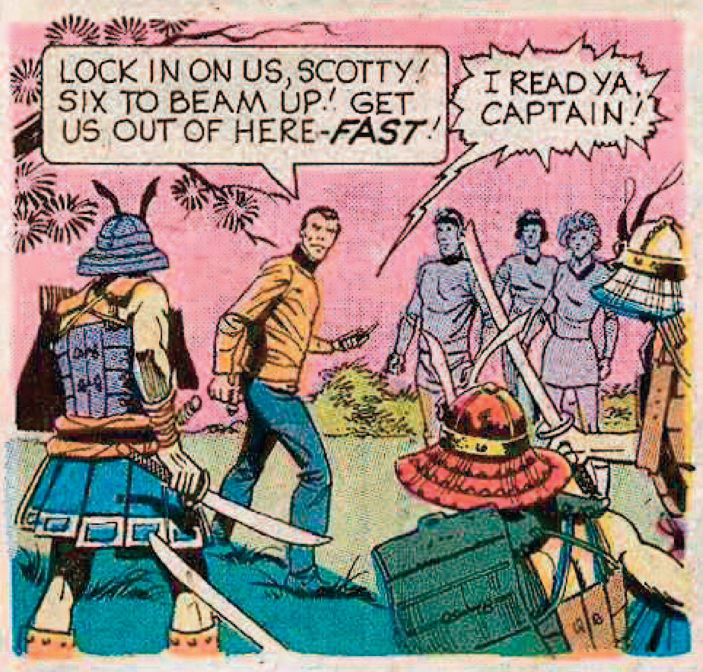

WHA...! WHILE I WAS OCCUPIED, SPOCK *SLIPPED AWAY!*
BUT HE MUST WAIT--
I MUST ATTEND TO *OTHER INTRUDERS* IN THE PALACE OF LIFE!
THIS IS A *FORBIDDEN DOOR!* I FEAR IT---YET I KNOW I MUST PASS THROUGH IT! I MUST SEE WHAT IS *BEYOND!*
WHATEVER IT IS, YOU WILL PROBABLY FIND IT FAR LESS TERRIFYING THAN YOU HAVE BEEN LED TO *BELIEVE!* I'M SURE SPOCK MUST HAVE COME THIS WAY!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF SHADOWS, CAPTAIN KIRK! I FEEL THAT BURIED DEEP WITHIN ME, I KNOW WHAT IS BEYOND---
--AND THE *TERROR* IS VERY REAL!
NOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
GOOD HEAVENS! *CLONES!*
CAPTAIN, THAT MEANS...*ALL* THE PEOPLE.... EVEN *OSHINO*..

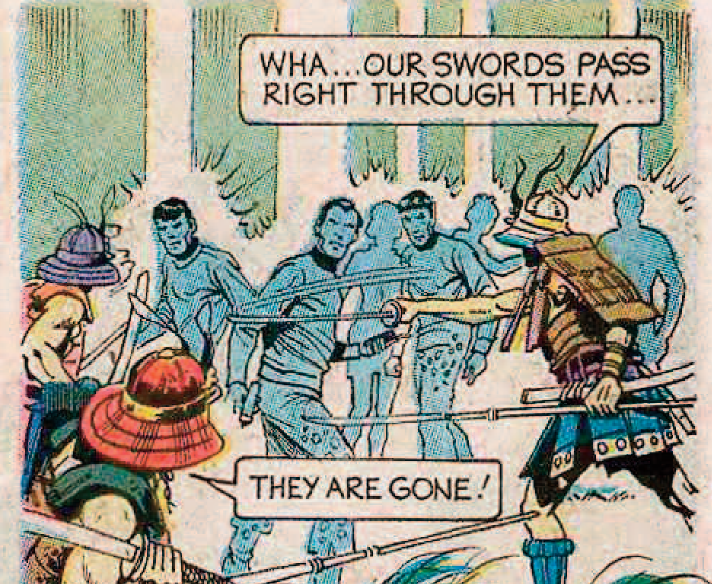

CAPTAIN! SHE'S *BERSERK!* SHE'S TEARING THE PLACE *APART!*
WE'VE GOT BIGGER WORRIES RIGHT NOW! *LOOK!*
PHASERS ON *FULL!* DON'T LET THOSE THINGS GET TOO CLOSE! *FIRE!*
BREEEE-EEEEE!
IT'S ALL *BLUFF!* THOSE ROBOTS WERE *NEVER* PREPARED TO HANDLE *PHASERS!*
HE'S ONLY *TOYING* WITH US -- WE HAVE TO GET *OUT!*
SPOCK! SPOCK, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
QUITE! HOWEVER, I WOULD SUGGEST A HASTY *RETREAT*, CAPTAIN! THIS SITUATION WILL REQUIRE SOME *CONSIDERATION!*
CAPTAIN! OSHINO JUST GRABBED MY PHASER!
LISTEN! GO! RETURN TO YOUR SHIP! LEAVE! I'LL GO FIND YAMOTO AND DESTROY HIM!

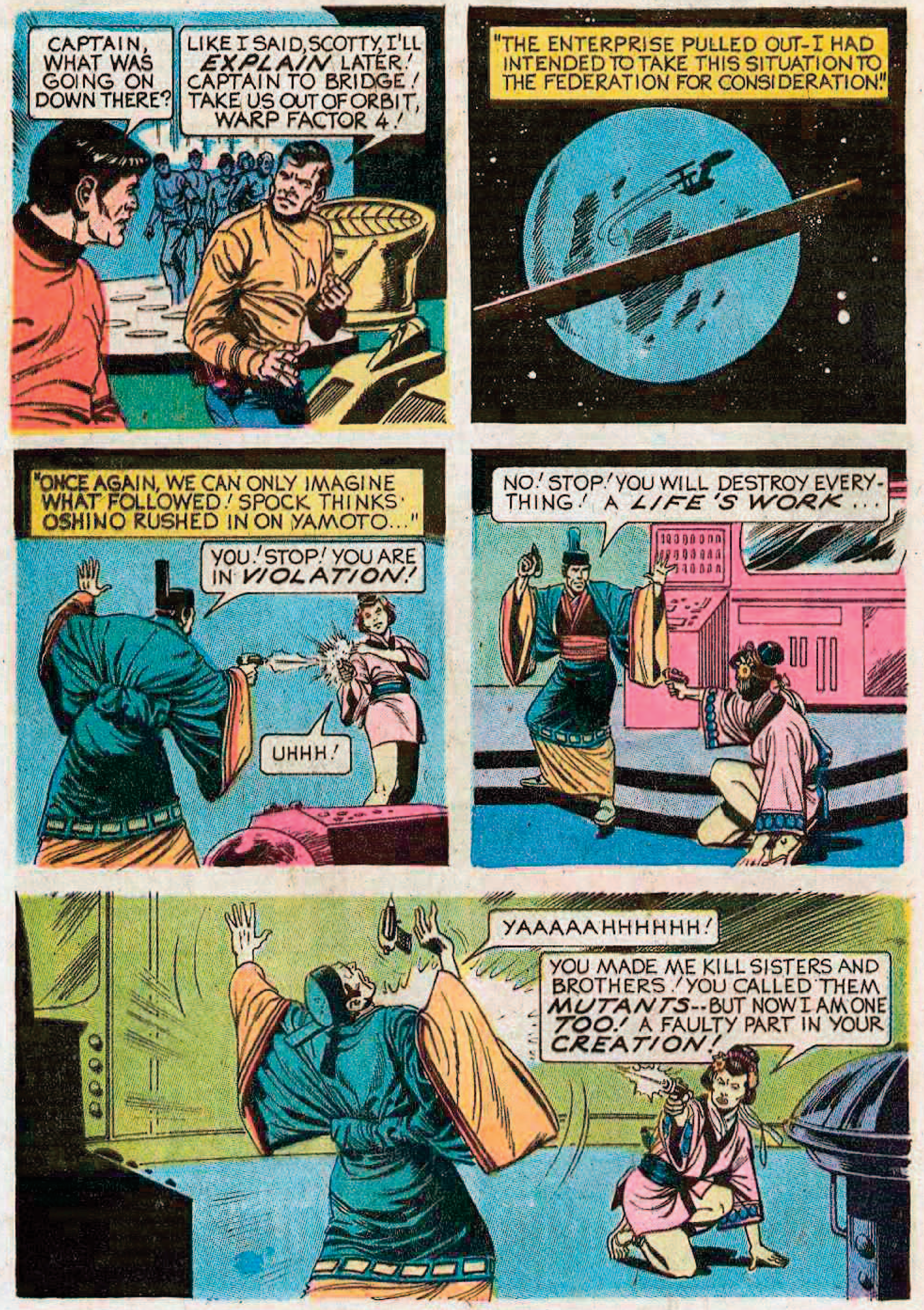

OSHINO, *LISTEN* TO ME!
IT'S NO USE, CAPTAIN KIRK! I LIVED MY LIFE THINKING THE UNIVERSE HAD SOME MEANINGFUL DESTINY AWAITING ME....
..NOW I HAVE LEARNED THAT I AM NOTHING MORE THAN SOMEONE'S LABORATORY *EXPERIMENT*

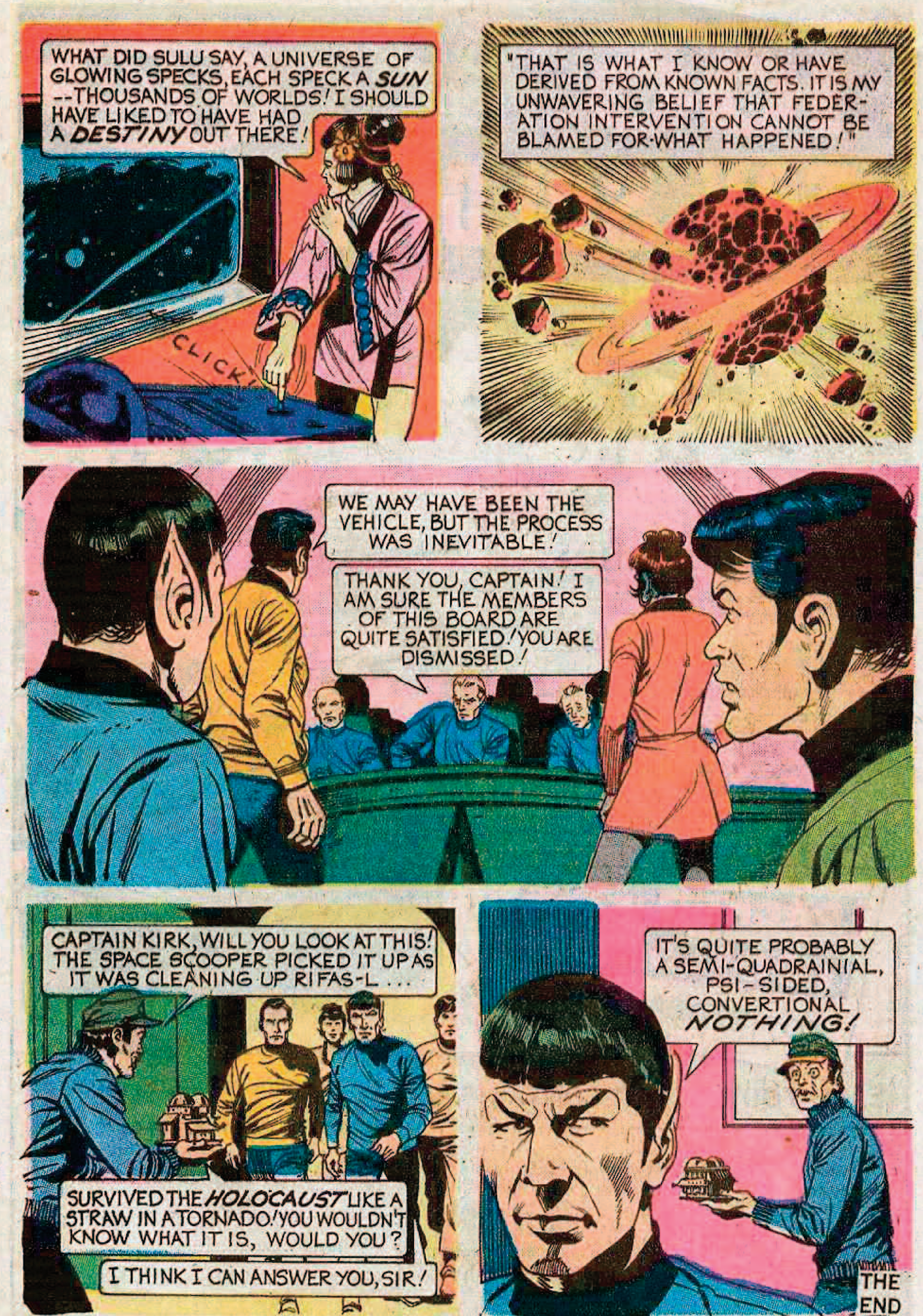

THERE'S *NOTHING* WE CAN DO, CAPTAIN-- EXCEPT LEAVE AS SHE ASKED!
Y-YES, YOU'RE RIGHT! IF ONLY.... COME ON, LET'S GET *OUT* OF HERE!

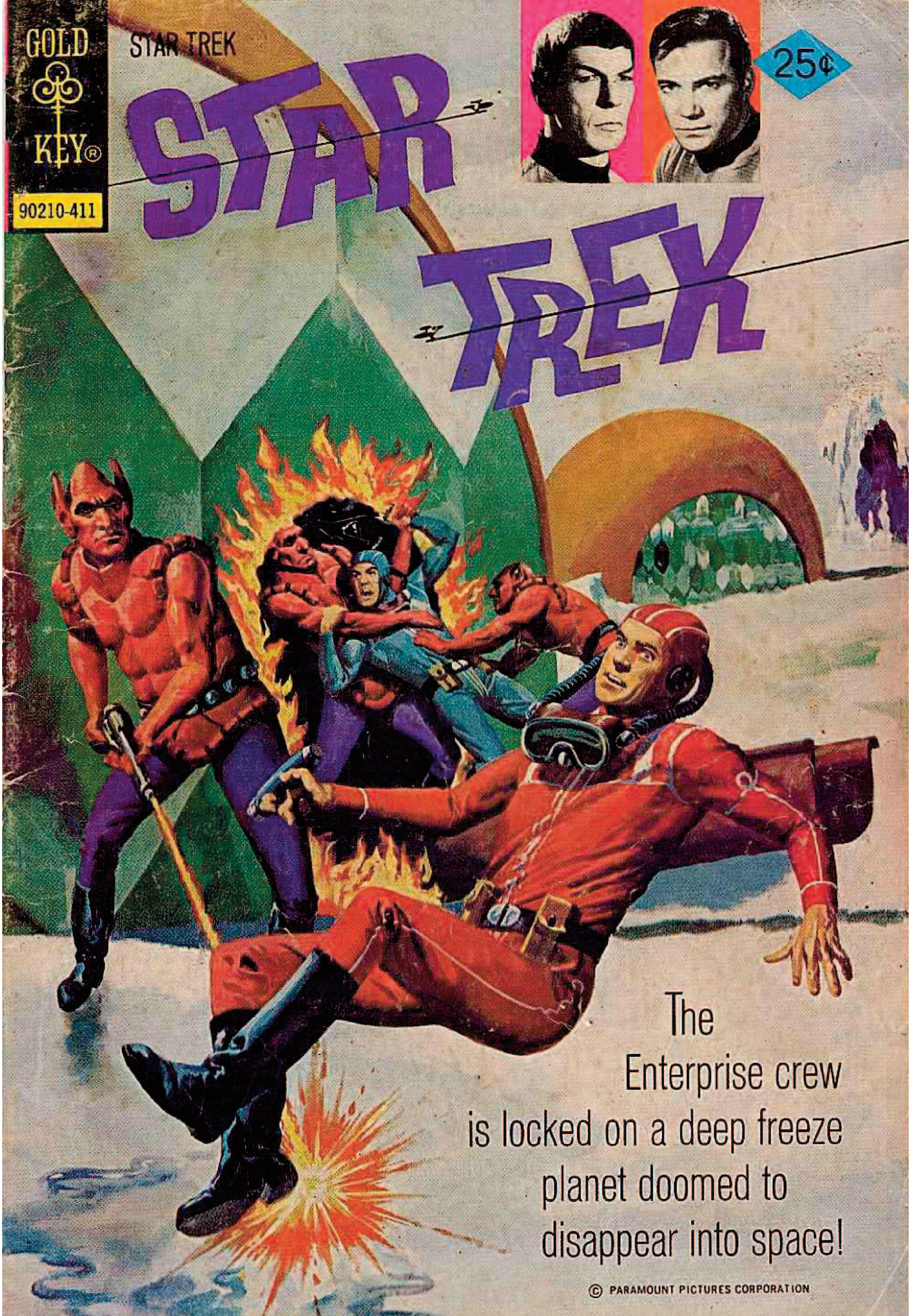

CAPTAIN! *COLLECTORS* --THEY'VE BEEN WAITING FOR US!
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE! SCOTTY, COME IN!
BEEP BEEP!
BLIP-IP!


LOCK IN ON US, SCOTTY! SIX TO BEAM UP! GET US OUT OF HERE-*FAST*!
I READ YA, CAPTAIN!


WHA...OUR SWORDS PASS RIGHT THROUGH THEM...
THEY ARE GONE!


CAPTAIN, WHAT WAS GOING ON DOWN THERE?
LIKE I SAID, SCOTTY, I'LL *EXPLAIN* LATER! CAPTAIN TO BRIDGE! TAKE US OUT OF ORBIT, WARP FACTOR 4!
"THE ENTERPRISE PULLED OUT-I HAD INTENDED TO TAKE THIS SITUATION TO THE FEDERATION FOR CONSIDERATION!"
"ONCE AGAIN, WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT FOLLOWED! SPOCK THINKS OSHINO RUSHED IN ON YAMOTO..."
YOU! STOP! YOU ARE IN *VIOLATION!*
UHHH!
NO! STOP! YOU WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING! A *LIFE'S WORK*...
YAAAAAHHHHHH!
YOU MADE ME KILL SISTERS AND BROTHERS! YOU CALLED THEM *MUTANTS*--BUT NOW I AM ONE *TOO!* A FAULTY PART IN YOUR *CREATION!*


WHAT DID SULU SAY, A UNIVERSE OF GLOWING SPECKS, EACH SPECK A *SUN* --THOUSANDS OF WORLDS! I SHOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE HAD A *DESTINY* OUT THERE!
CLICK!
"THAT IS WHAT I KNOW OR HAVE DERIVED FROM KNOWN FACTS. IT IS MY UNWAVERING BELIEF THAT FEDERATION INTERVENTION CANNOT BE BLAMED FOR WHAT HAPPENED!"
WE MAY HAVE BEEN THE VEHICLE, BUT THE PROCESS WAS INEVITABLE!
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN! I AM SURE THE MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD ARE QUITE SATISFIED! YOU ARE DISMISSED!
CAPTAIN KIRK, WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS! THE SPACE SCOOPER PICKED IT UP AS IT WAS CLEANING UP RIFAS-L . . .
SURVIVED THE *HOLOCAUST* LIKE A STRAW IN A TORNADO! YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, WOULD YOU?
I THINK I CAN ANSWER YOU, SIR!
IT'S QUITE PROBABLY A SEMI-QUADRAINIAL, PSI-SIDED, CONVERTIONAL *NOTHING!*
THE END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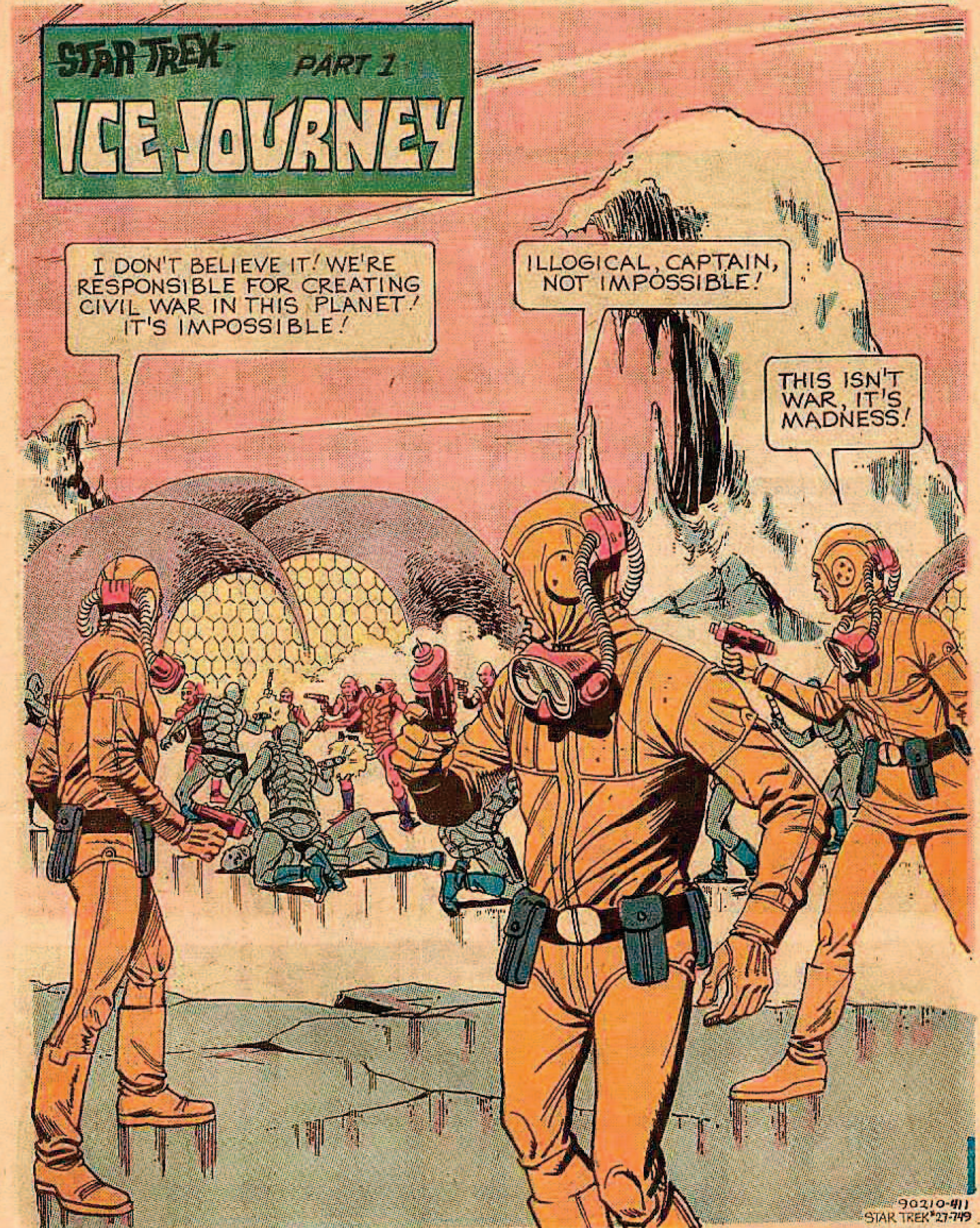
STAR TREK
PART 1
ICE JOURNEY
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WE'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING CIVIL WAR IN THIS PLANET! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
ILLOGICAL, CAPTAIN, NOT IMPOSSIBLE!
THIS ISN'T WAR, IT'S MADNESS!
90210-411
STAR TREK 27-749

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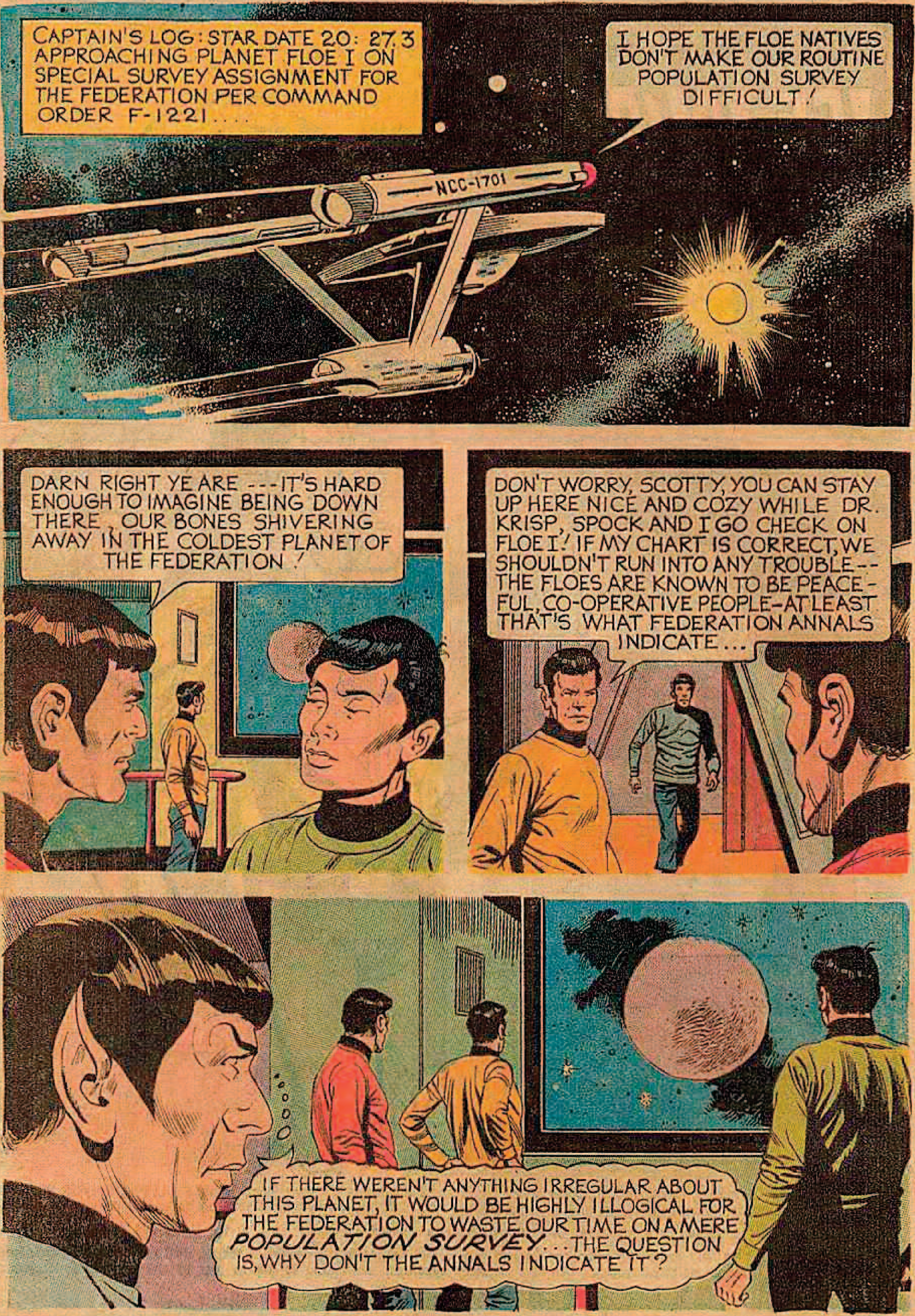
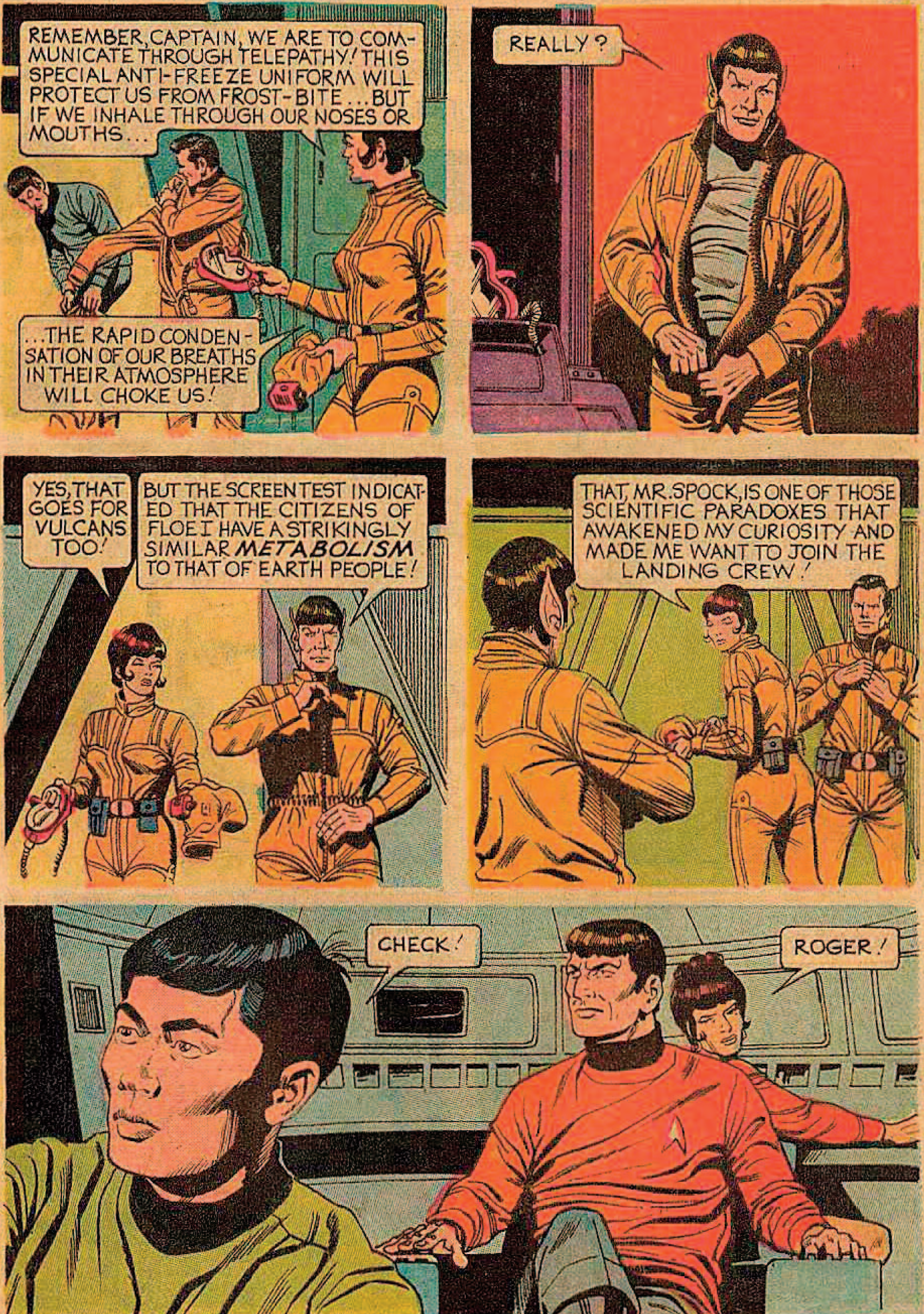
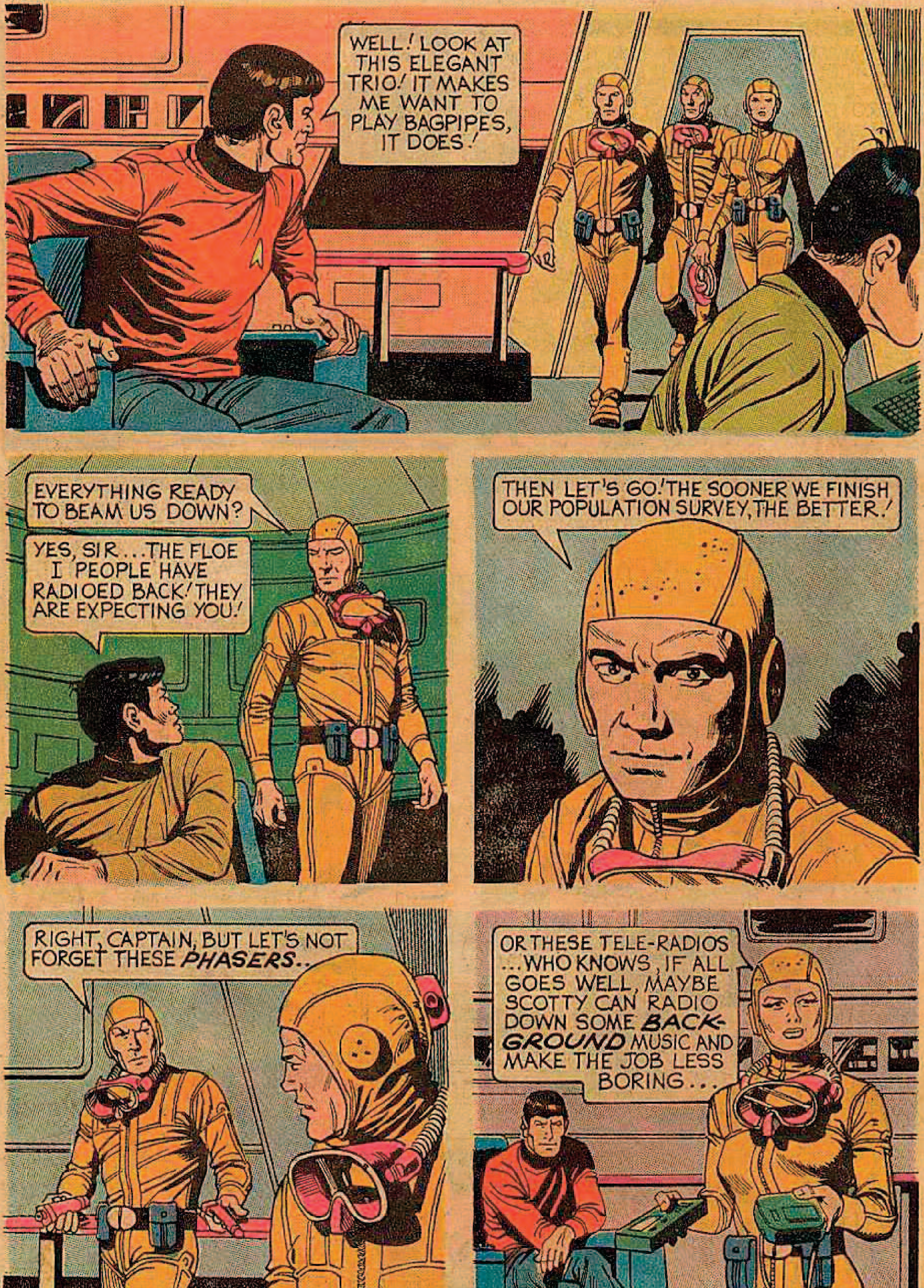
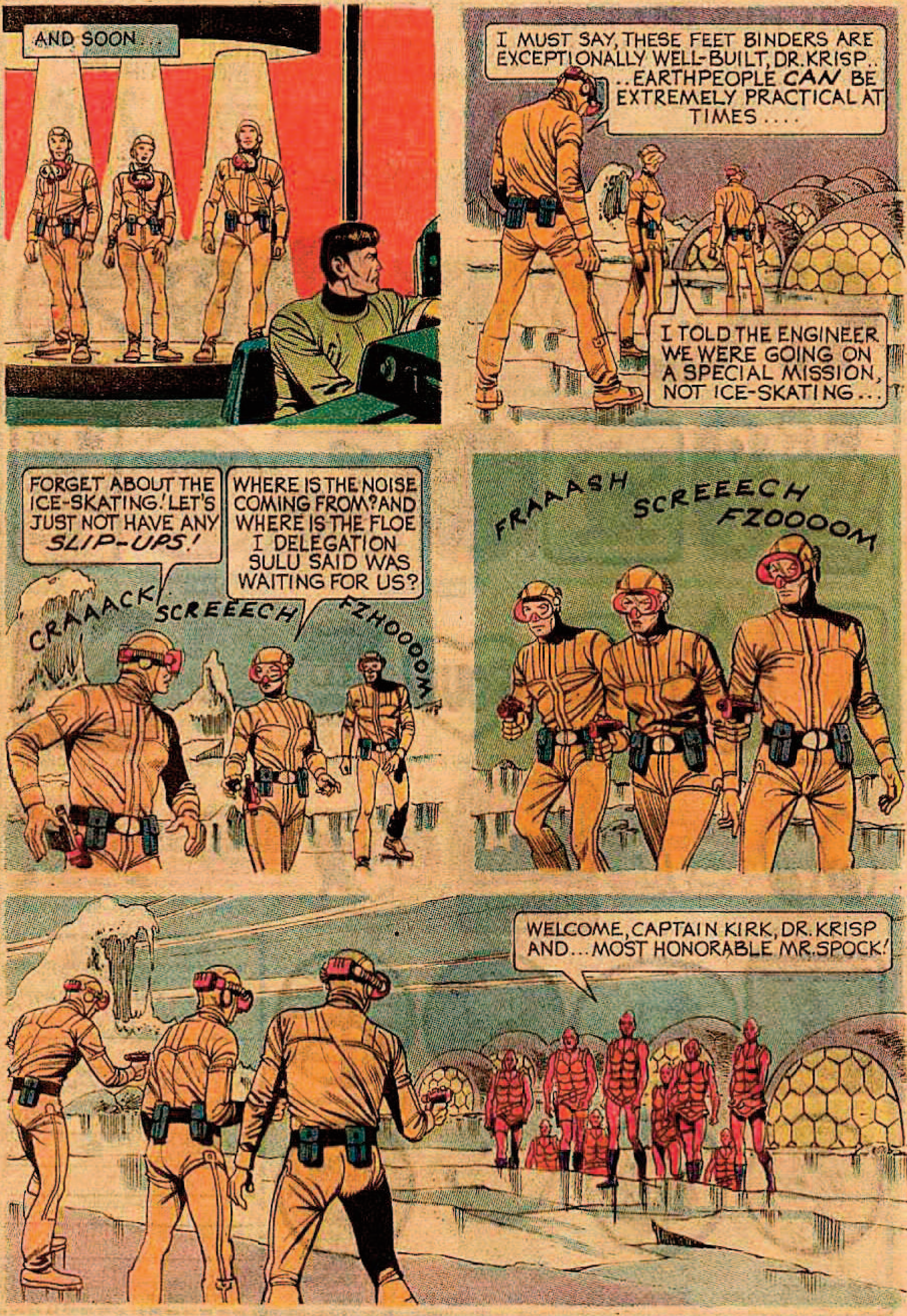
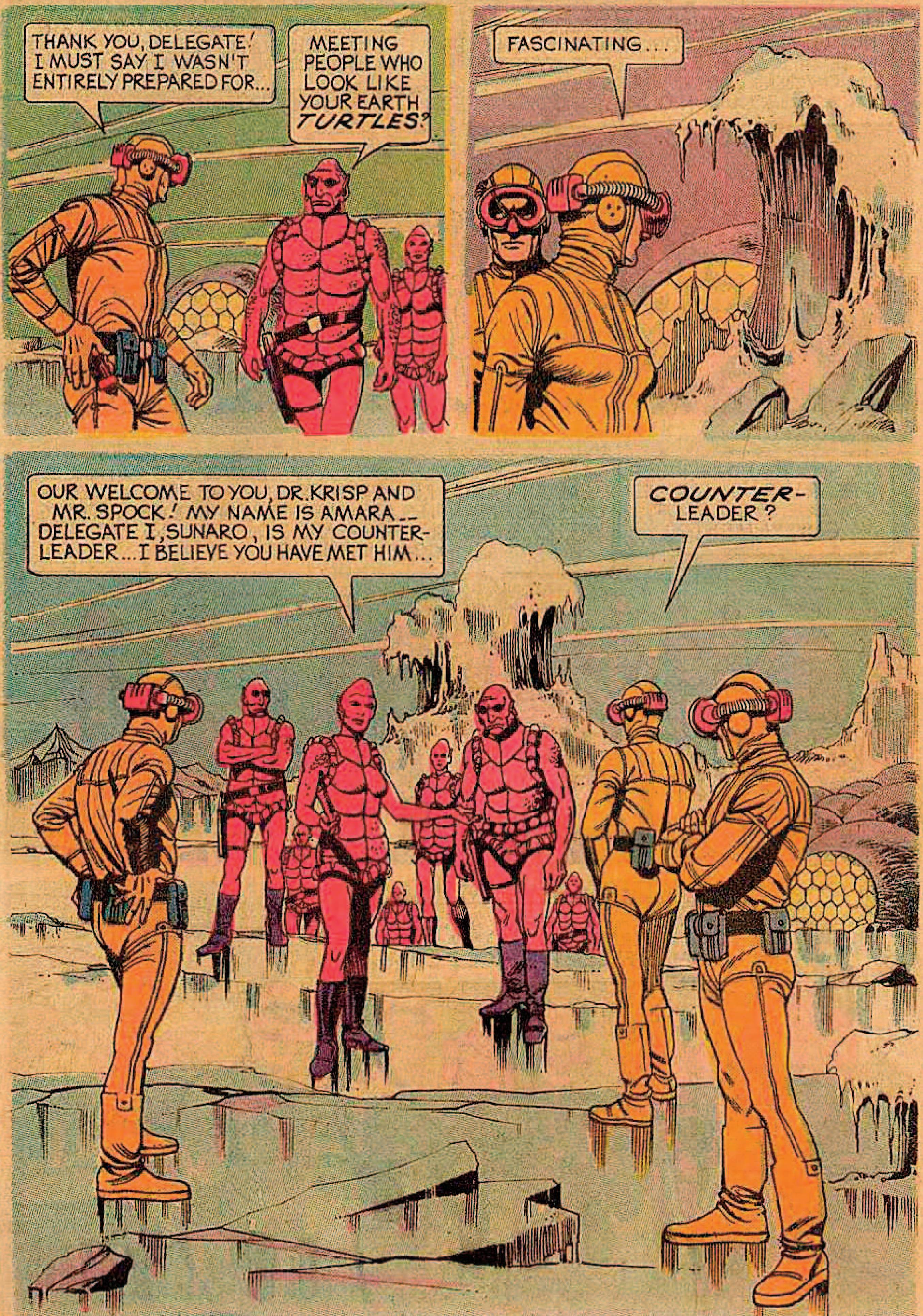
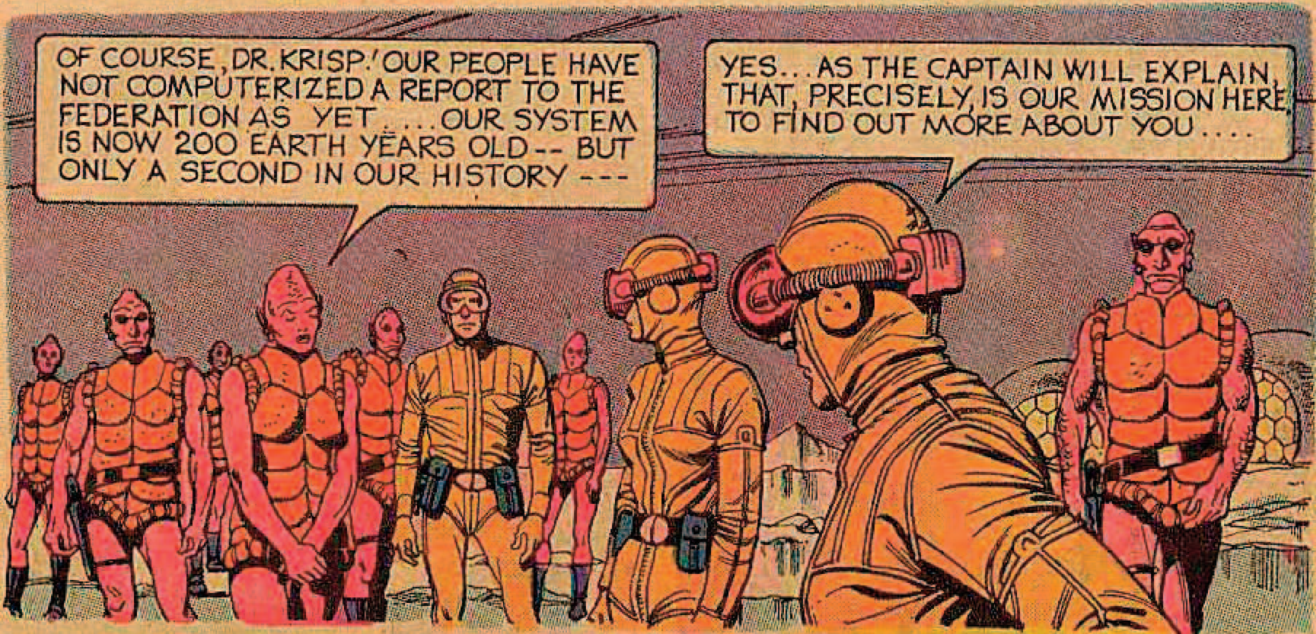

CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 20: 27.3 APPROACHING PLANET FLOE I ON SPECIAL SURVEY ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FEDERATION PER COMMAND ORDER F-1221....
I HOPE THE FLOE NATIVES DON'T MAKE OUR ROUTINE POPULATION SURVEY DIFFICULT!
NCC-1701
DARN RIGHT YE ARE---IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO IMAGINE BEING DOWN THERE, OUR BONES SHIVERING AWAY IN THE COLDEST PLANET OF THE FEDERATION!
DON'T WORRY, SCOTTY, YOU CAN STAY UP HERE NICE AND COZY WHILE DR. KRISP, SPOCK AND I GO CHECK ON FLOE I! IF MY CHART IS CORRECT, WE SHOULDN'T RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE--THE FLOES ARE KNOWN TO BE PEACEFUL, CO-OPERATIVE PEOPLE-AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT FEDERATION ANNALS INDICATE...
IF THERE WEREN'T ANYTHING IRREGULAR ABOUT THIS PLANET, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY ILLOGICAL FOR THE FEDERATION TO WASTE OUR TIME ON A MERE *POPULATION SURVEY*...THE QUESTION IS, WHY DON'T THE ANNALS INDICATE IT?

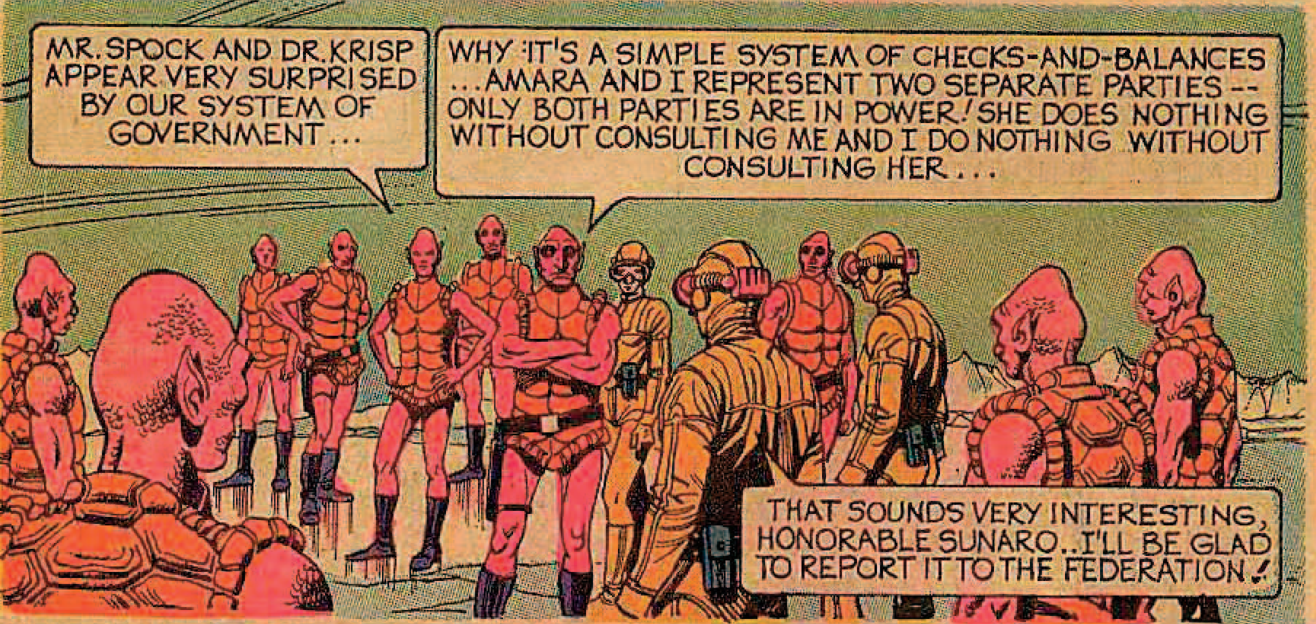

REMEMBER, CAPTAIN, WE ARE TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH TELEPATHY! THIS SPECIAL ANTI-FREEZE UNIFORM WILL PROTECT US FROM FROST-BITE ... BUT IF WE INHALE THROUGH OUR NOSES OR MOUTHS...
...THE RAPID CONDENSATION OF OUR BREATHS IN THEIR ATMOSPHERE WILL CHOKE US!
REALLY?
YES, THAT GOES FOR VULCANS TOO!
BUT THE SCREEN TEST INDICATED THAT THE CITIZENS OF FLOEI HAVE A STRIKINGLY SIMILAR *METABOLISM* TO THAT OF EARTH PEOPLE!
THAT, MR. SPOCK, IS ONE OF THOSE SCIENTIFIC PARADOXES THAT AWAKENED MY CURIOSITY AND MADE ME WANT TO JOIN THE LANDING CREW!
CHECK!
ROGER!

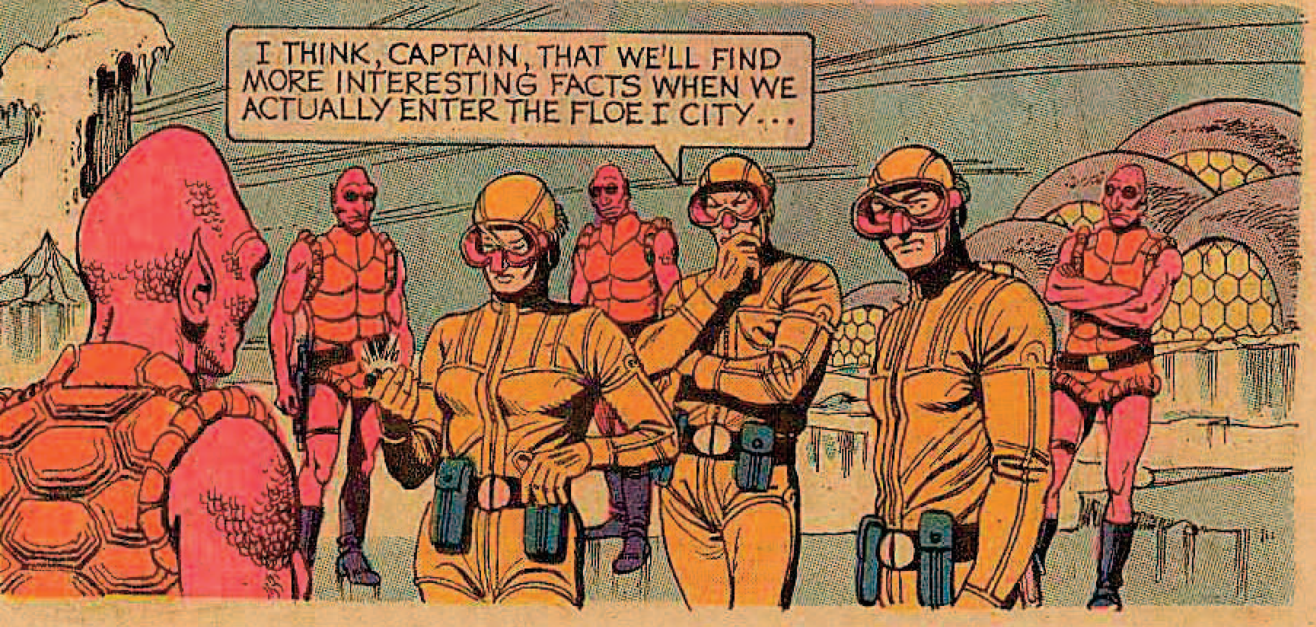

WELL! LOOK AT THIS ELEGANT TRIO! IT MAKES ME WANT TO PLAY BAGPIPES, IT DOES!
EVERYTHING READY TO BEAM US DOWN?
YES, SIR... THE FLOE I PEOPLE HAVE RADIOED BACK! THEY ARE EXPECTING YOU!
THEN LET'S GO! THE SOONER WE FINISH OUR POPULATION SURVEY, THE BETTER!
RIGHT, CAPTAIN, BUT LET'S NOT FORGET THESE *PHASERS*..
OR THESE TELE-RADIOS ...WHO KNOWS, IF ALL GOES WELL, MAYBE SCOTTY CAN RADIO DOWN SOME *BACKGROUND* MUSIC AND MAKE THE JOB LESS BORING...

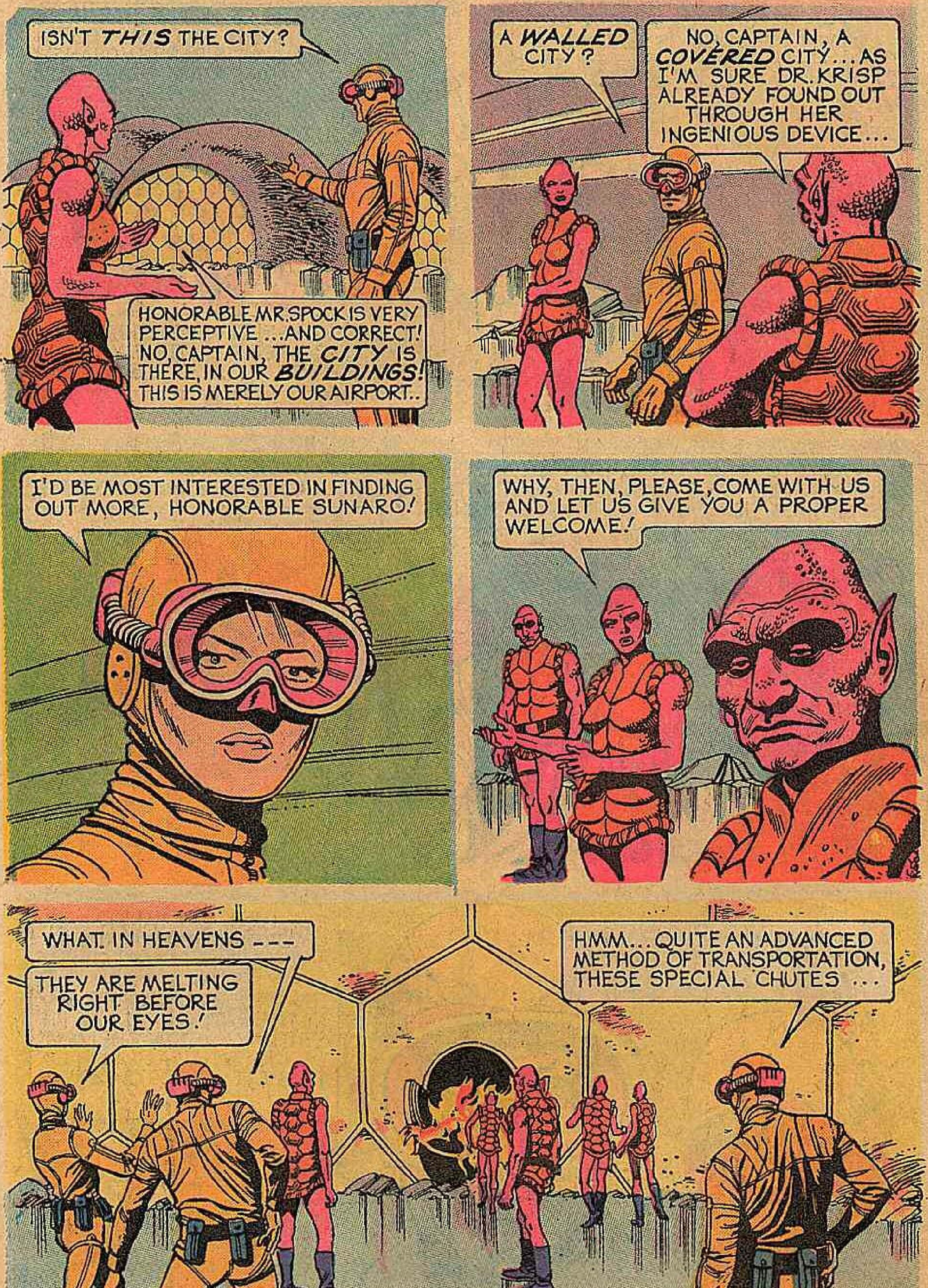

AND SOON...
I MUST SAY, THESE FEET BINDERS ARE EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-BUILT, DR. KRISP.. ..EARTHPEOPLE *CAN* BE EXTREMELY PRACTICAL AT TIMES....
I TOLD THE ENGINEER WE WERE GOING ON A SPECIAL MISSION, NOT ICE-SKATING...
FORGET ABOUT THE ICE-SKATING! LET'S JUST NOT HAVE ANY *SLIP-UPS*!
WHERE IS THE NOISE COMING FROM? AND WHERE IS THE FLOE I DELEGATION SULU SAID WAS WAITING FOR US?
CRAAACK
SCREEECH
FZHOOOOOM
FRAAASH
SCREEECH
FZOOOOM
WELCOME, CAPTAIN KIRK, DR. KRISP AND... MOST HONORABLE MR. SPOCK!

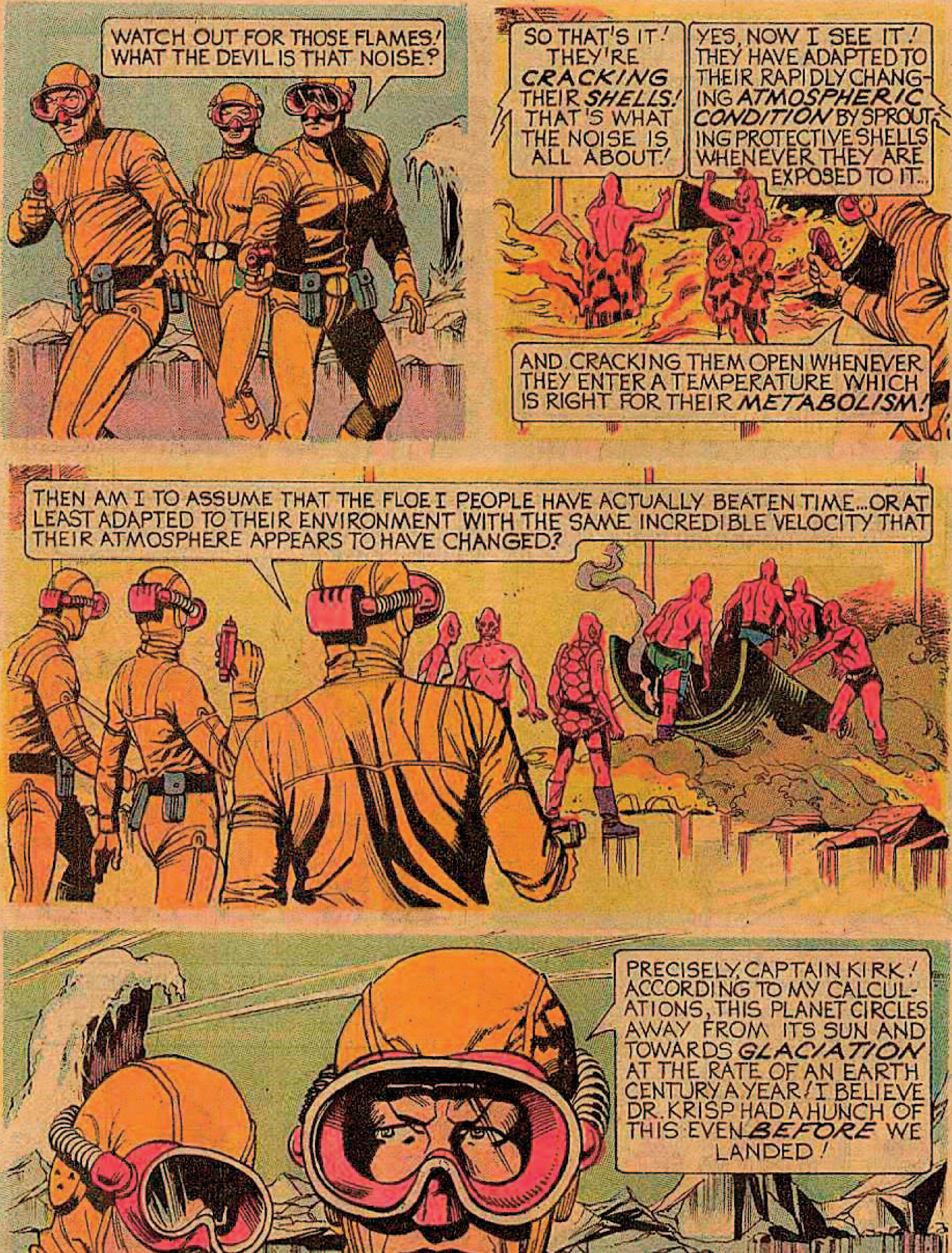

THANK YOU, DELEGATE! I MUST SAY I WASN'T ENTIRELY PREPARED FOR...
MEETING PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE YOUR EARTH *TURTLES*?
FASCINATING...
OUR WELCOME TO YOU, DR. KRISP AND MR. SPOCK! MY NAME IS AMARA -- DELEGATE I, SUNARO, IS MY COUNTER-LEADER... I BELIEVE YOU HAVE MET HIM...
COUNTER-LEADER?

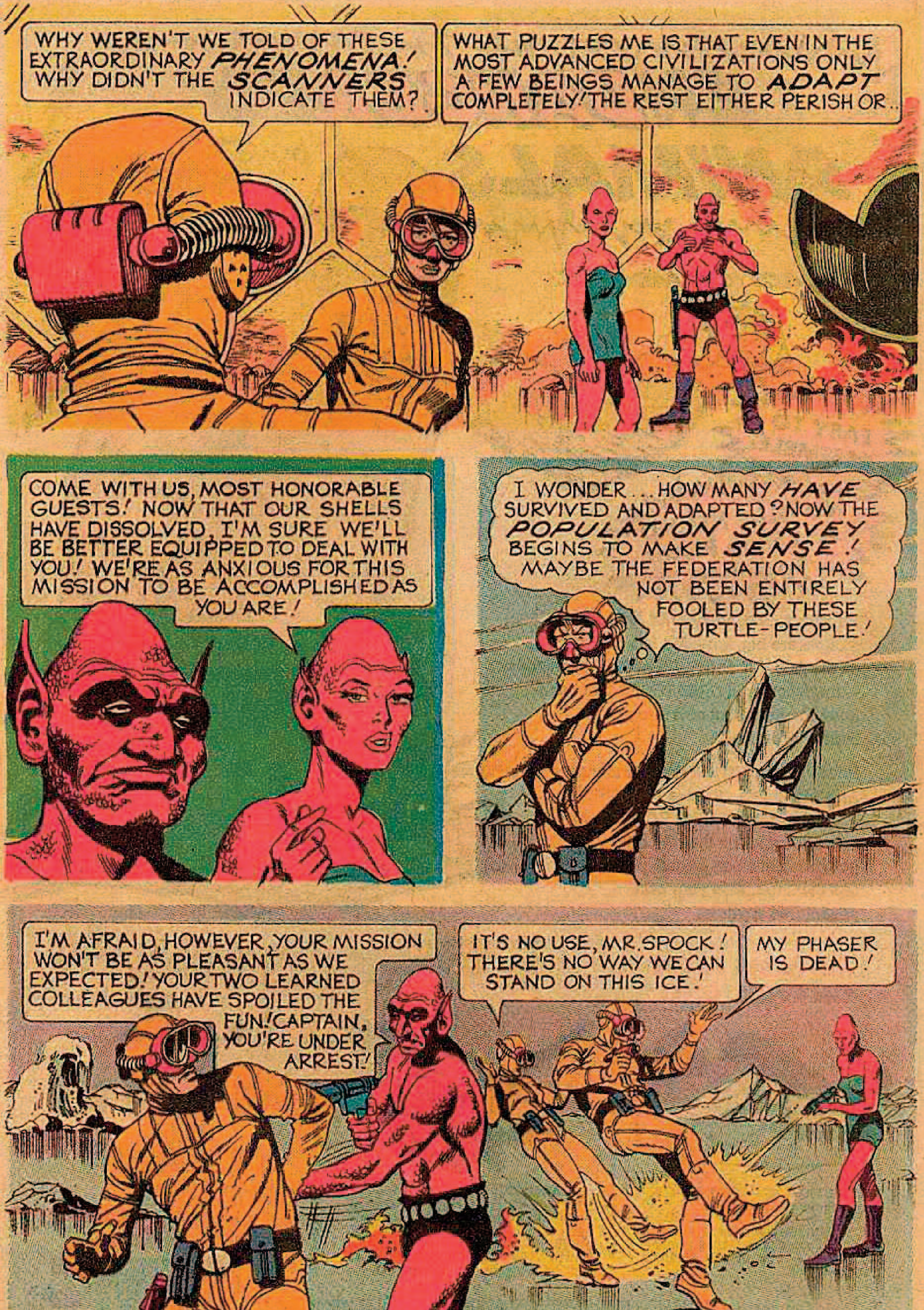

OF COURSE, DR. KRISP! OUR PEOPLE HAVE NOT COMPUTERIZED A REPORT TO THE FEDERATION AS YET . . . . OUR SYSTEM IS NOW 200 EARTH YEARS OLD -- BUT ONLY A SECOND IN OUR HISTORY ---
YES . . . AS THE CAPTAIN WILL EXPLAIN, THAT, PRECISELY, IS OUR MISSION HERE, TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOU . . . .

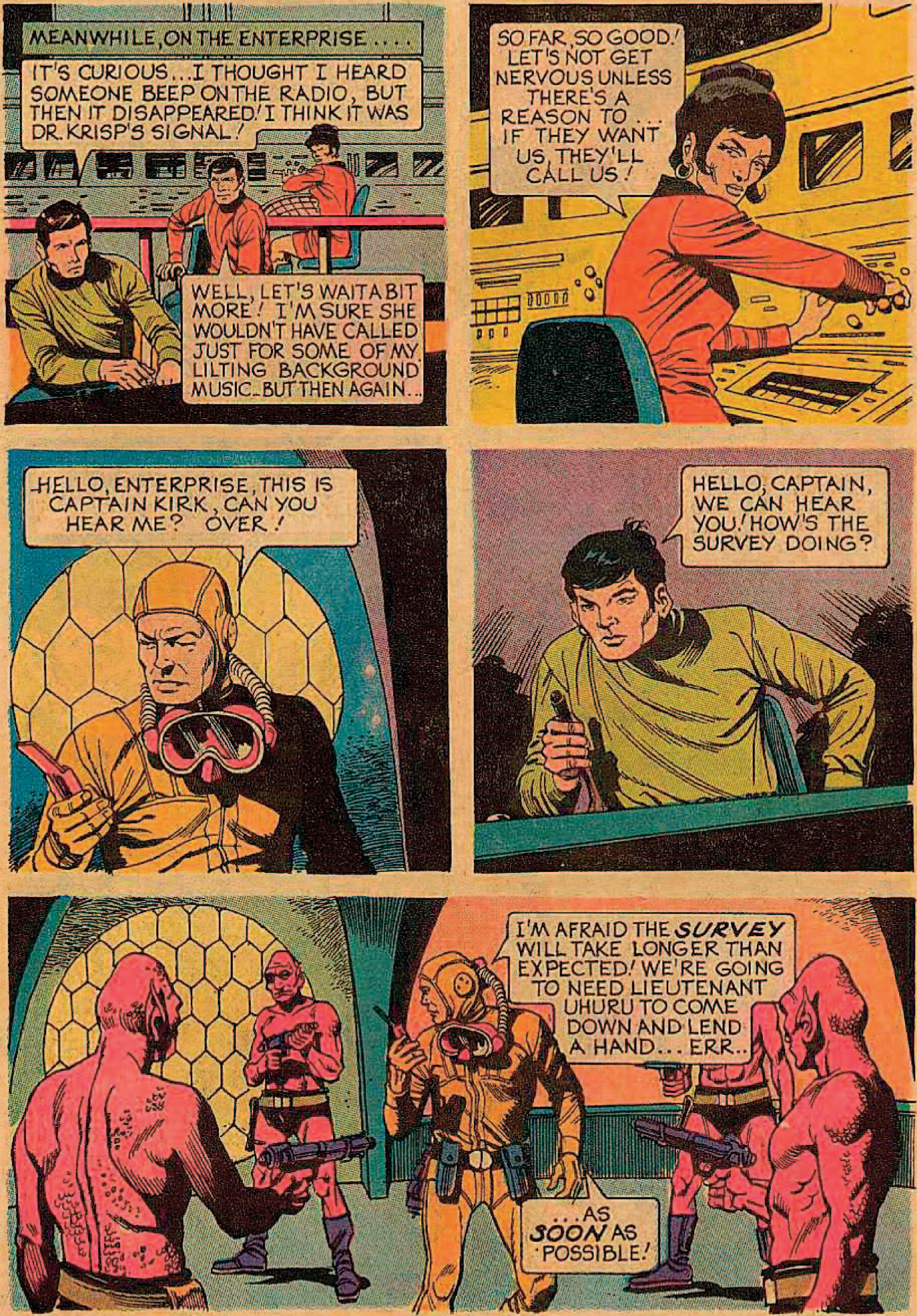

MR. SPOCK AND DR. KRISP APPEAR VERY SURPRISED BY OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT . . .
WHY IT'S A SIMPLE SYSTEM OF CHECKS-AND-BALANCES . . . AMARA AND I REPRESENT TWO SEPARATE PARTIES -- ONLY BOTH PARTIES ARE IN POWER! SHE DOES NOTHING WITHOUT CONSULTING ME AND I DO NOTHING WITHOUT CONSULTING HER . . .
THAT SOUNDS VERY INTERESTING, HONORABLE SUNARO.. I'LL BE GLAD TO REPORT IT TO THE FEDERATION!

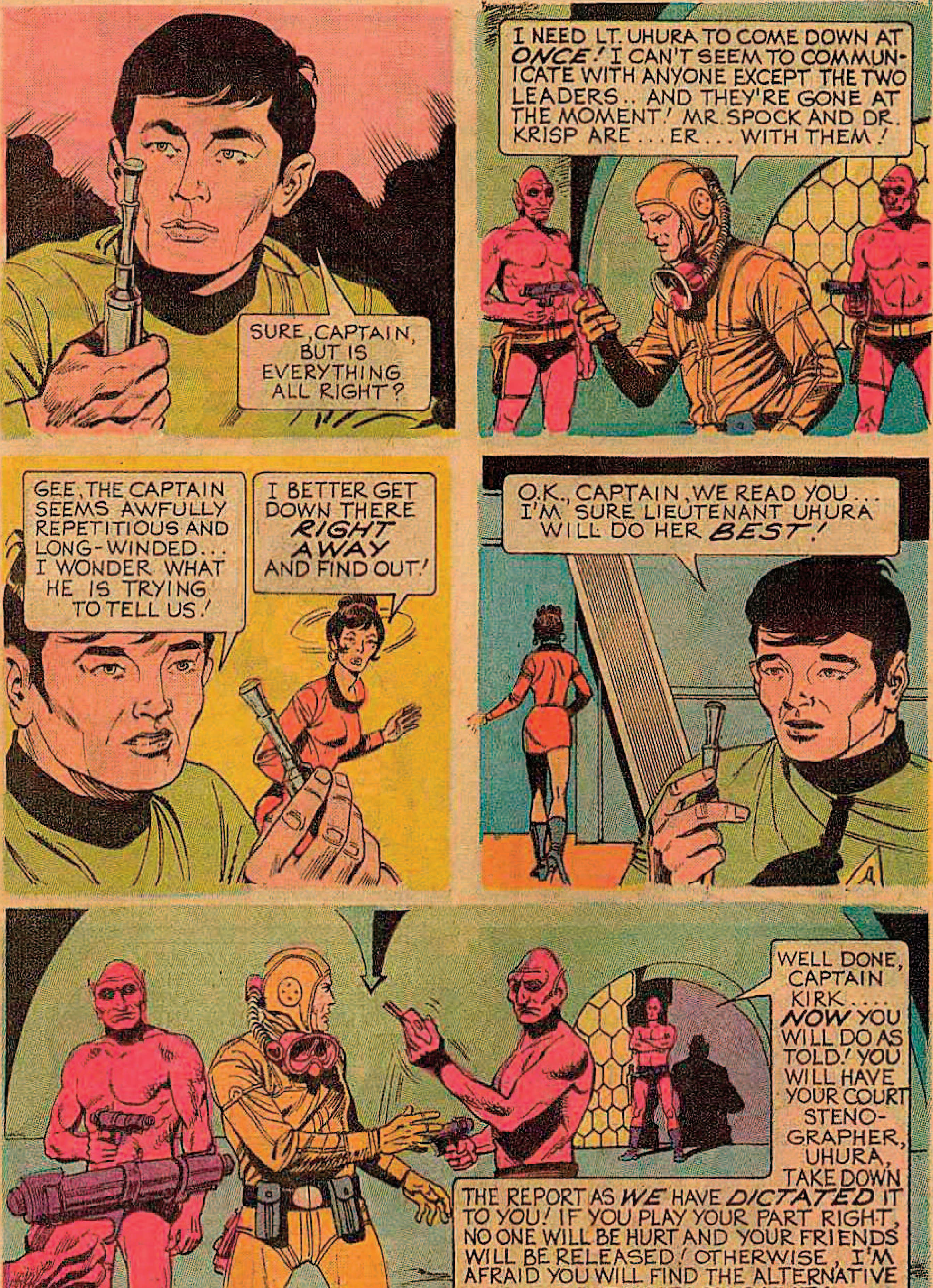

I THINK, CAPTAIN, THAT WE'LL FIND MORE INTERESTING FACTS WHEN WE ACTUALLY ENTER THE FLOE I CITY . . .

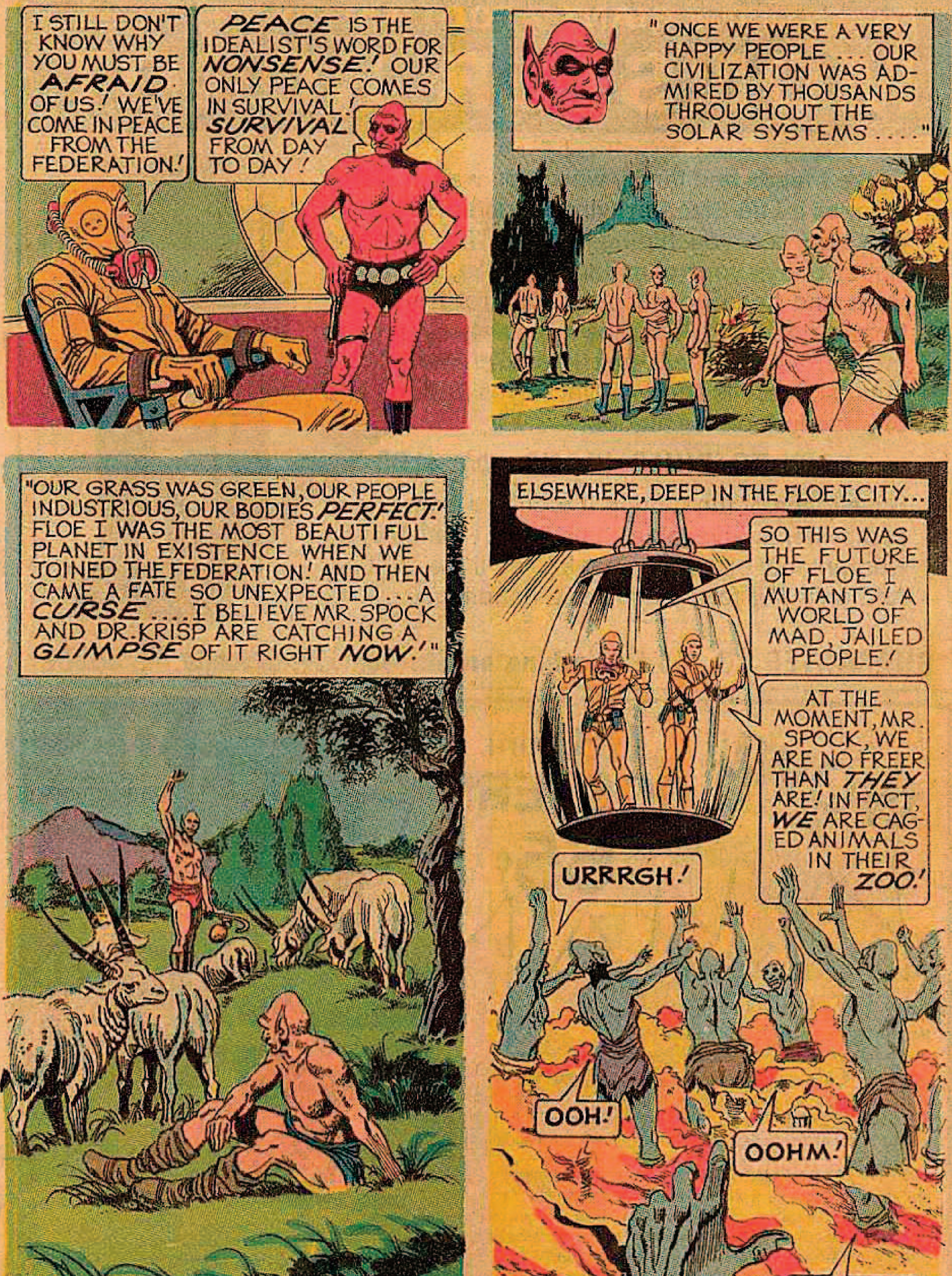

ISN'T *THIS* THE CITY?
HONORABLE MR. SPOCK IS VERY PERCEPTIVE ...AND CORRECT! NO, CAPTAIN, THE *CITY* IS THERE, IN OUR *BUILDINGS*! THIS IS MERELY OUR AIRPORT..
A *WALLED* CITY?
NO, CAPTAIN, A *COVERED* CITY... AS I'M SURE DR. KRISP ALREADY FOUND OUT THROUGH HER INGENIOUS DEVICE...
I'D BE MOST INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE, HONORABLE SUNARO!
WHY, THEN, PLEASE, COME WITH US AND LET US GIVE YOU A PROPER WELCOME!
WHAT. IN HEAVENS ---
THEY ARE MELTING RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!
HMM... QUITE AN ADVANCED METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION, THESE SPECIAL CHUTES ...


WATCH OUT FOR THOSE FLAMES! WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT NOISE?
SO THAT'S IT! THEY'RE *CRACKING* THEIR *SHELLS!* THAT'S WHAT THE NOISE IS ALL ABOUT!
YES, NOW I SEE IT! THEY HAVE ADAPTED TO THEIR RAPIDLY CHANGING *ATMOSPHERIC CONDITION* BY SPROUTING PROTECTIVE SHELLS WHENEVER THEY ARE EXPOSED TO IT...
AND CRACKING THEM OPEN WHENEVER THEY ENTER A TEMPERATURE WHICH IS RIGHT FOR THEIR *METABOLISM!*
THEN AM I TO ASSUME THAT THE FLOE I PEOPLE HAVE ACTUALLY BEATEN TIME...OR AT LEAST ADAPTED TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT WITH THE SAME INCREDIBLE VELOCITY THAT THEIR ATMOSPHERE APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED?
PRECISELY, CAPTAIN KIRK! ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THIS PLANET CIRCLES AWAY FROM ITS SUN AND TOWARDS *GLACIATION* AT THE RATE OF AN EARTH CENTURY A YEAR! I BELIEVE DR. KRISP HAD A HUNCH OF THIS EVEN *BEFORE* WE LANDED!

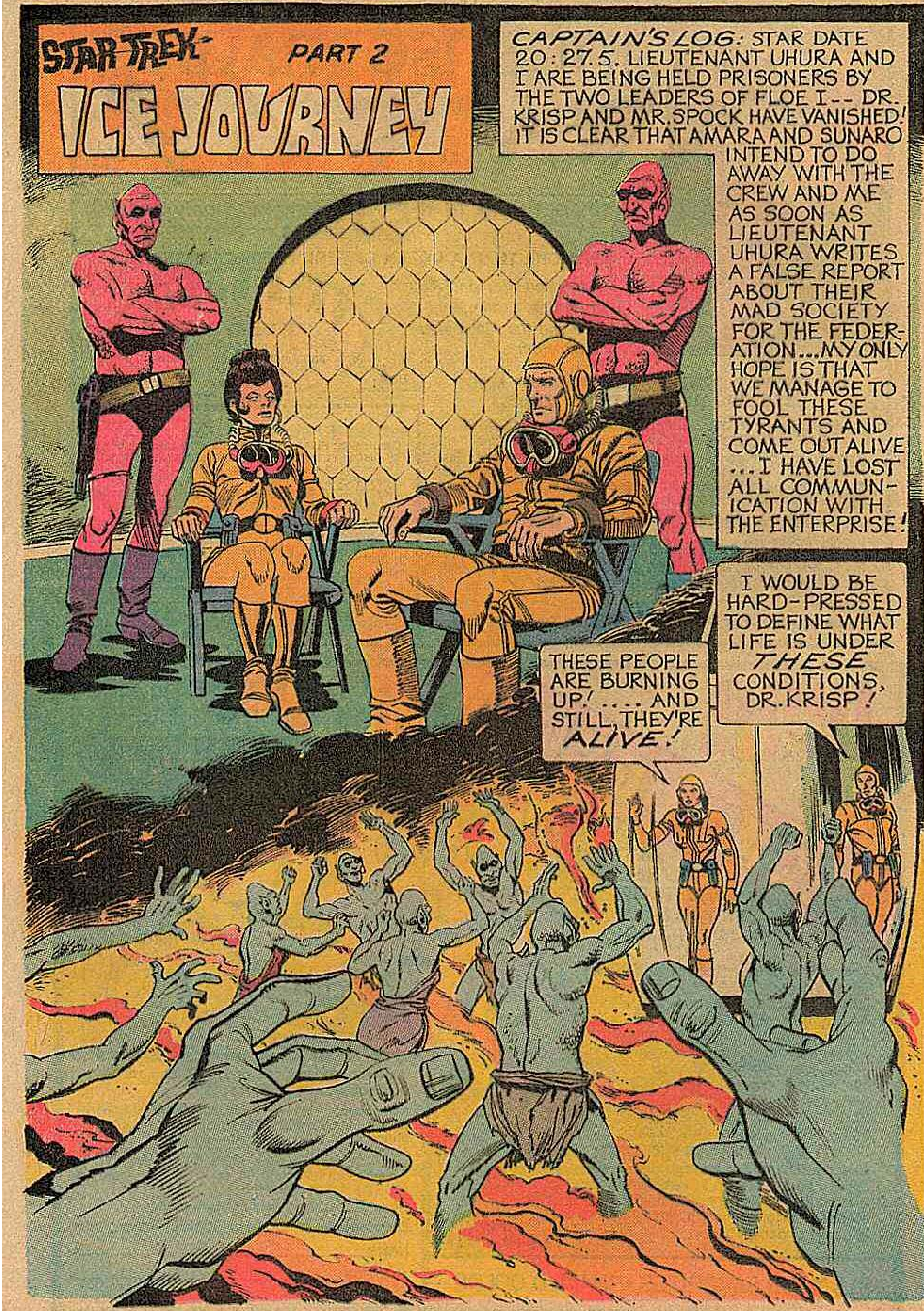

WHY WEREN'T WE TOLD OF THESE EXTRAORDINARY *PHENOMENA!* WHY DIDN'T THE *SCANNERS* INDICATE THEM?
WHAT PUZZLES ME IS THAT EVEN IN THE MOST ADVANCED CIVILIZATIONS ONLY A FEW BEINGS MANAGE TO *ADAPT* COMPLETELY! THE REST EITHER PERISH OR..
COME WITH US, MOST HONORABLE GUESTS! NOW THAT OUR SHELLS HAVE DISSOLVED, I'M SURE WE'LL BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH YOU! WE'RE AS ANXIOUS FOR THIS MISSION TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AS YOU ARE!
I WONDER... HOW MANY *HAVE* SURVIVED AND ADAPTED? NOW THE *POPULATION SURVEY* BEGINS TO MAKE *SENSE!* MAYBE THE FEDERATION HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY FOOLED BY THESE TURTLE-PEOPLE!
I'M AFRAID, HOWEVER, YOUR MISSION WON'T BE AS PLEASANT AS WE EXPECTED! YOUR TWO LEARNED COLLEAGUES HAVE SPOILED THE FUN! CAPTAIN, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
IT'S NO USE, MR. SPOCK! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN STAND ON THIS ICE!
MY PHASER IS DEAD!

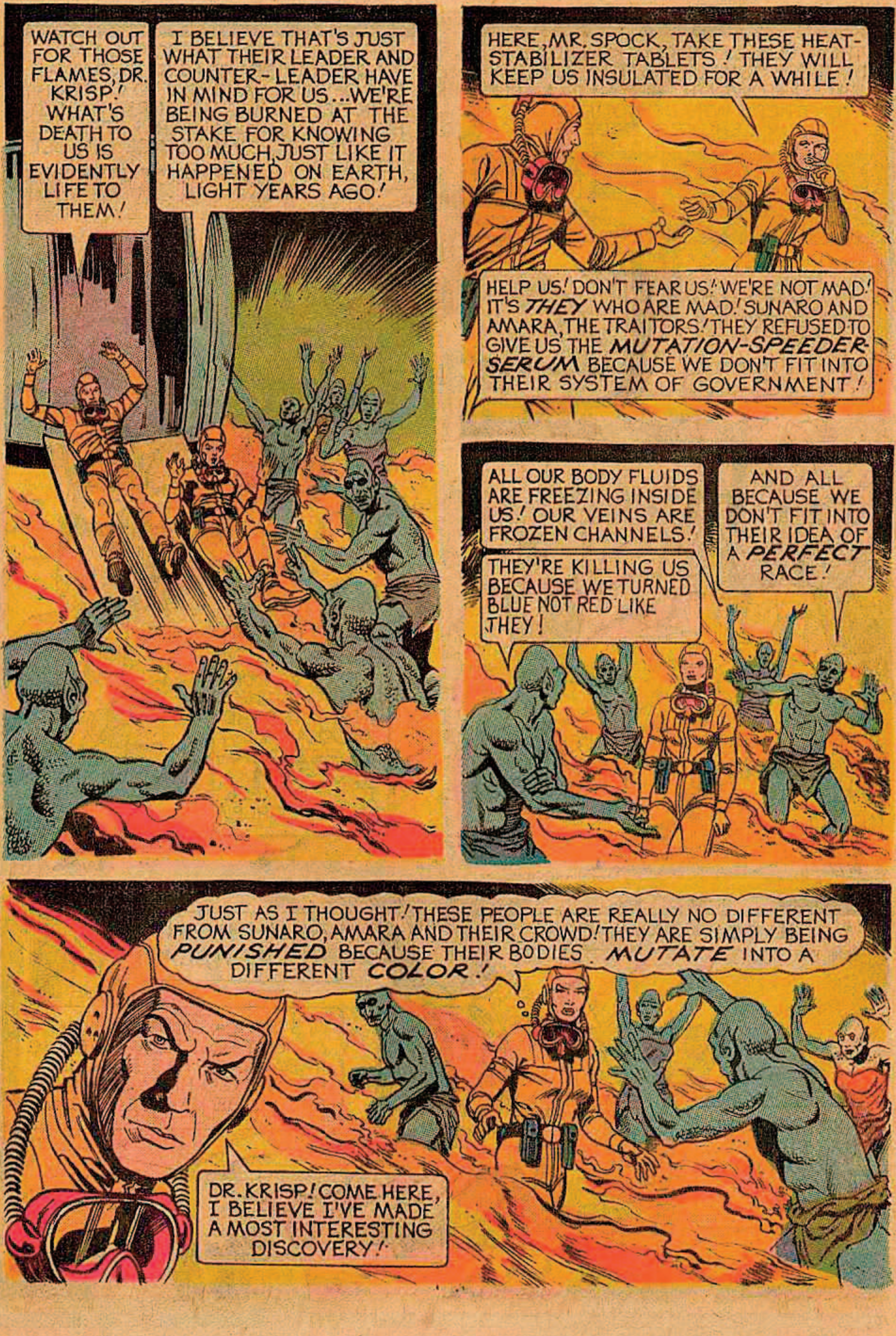

MEANWHILE, ON THE ENTERPRISE . . . .
IT'S CURIOUS... I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE BEEP ON THE RADIO, BUT THEN IT DISAPPEARED! I THINK IT WAS DR. KRISP'S SIGNAL!
WELL, LET'S WAIT A BIT MORE! I'M SURE SHE WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED JUST FOR SOME OF MY LILTING BACKGROUND MUSIC.. BUT THEN AGAIN...
SO FAR, SO GOOD! LET'S NOT GET NERVOUS UNLESS THERE'S A REASON TO ... IF THEY WANT US, THEY'LL CALL US!
HELLO, ENTERPRISE, THIS IS CAPTAIN KIRK, CAN YOU HEAR ME? OVER!
HELLO, CAPTAIN, WE CAN HEAR YOU! HOW'S THE SURVEY DOING?
I'M AFRAID THE SURVEY WILL TAKE LONGER THAN EXPECTED! WE'RE GOING TO NEED LIEUTENANT UHURU TO COME DOWN AND LEND A HAND... ERR..
...AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

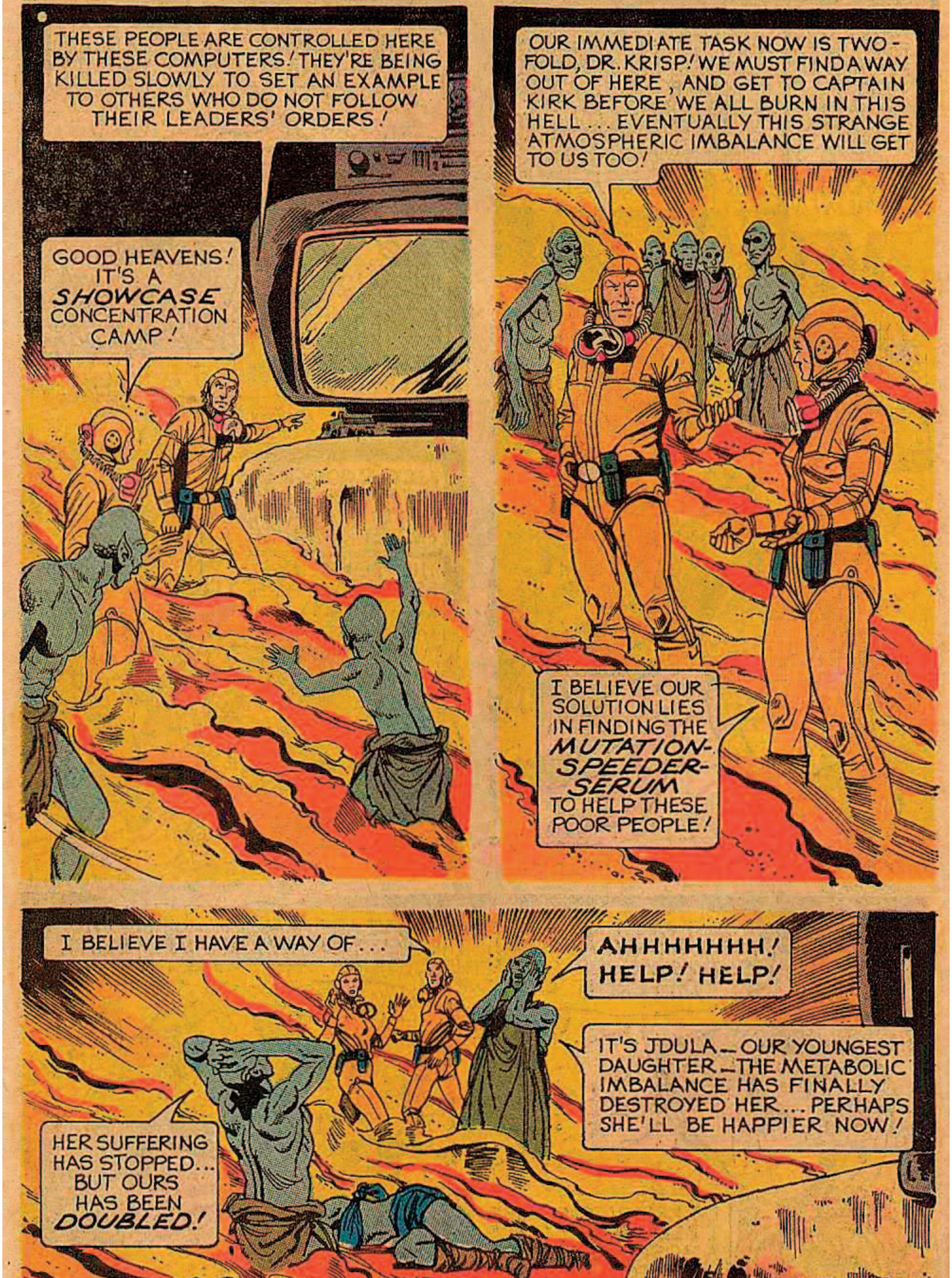

SURE, CAPTAIN, BUT IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
I NEED LT. UHURA TO COME DOWN AT *ONCE!* I CAN'T SEEM TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANYONE EXCEPT THE TWO LEADERS.. AND THEY'RE GONE AT THE MOMENT! MR. SPOCK AND DR. KRISP ARE . . . ER . . . WITH THEM!
GEE, THE CAPTAIN SEEMS AWFULLY REPETITIOUS AND LONG-WINDED . . . I WONDER WHAT HE IS TRYING TO TELL US!
I BETTER GET DOWN THERE *RIGHT AWAY* AND FIND OUT!
O.K., CAPTAIN, WE READ YOU . . . I'M SURE LIEUTENANT UHURA WILL DO HER *BEST!*
WELL DONE, CAPTAIN KIRK . . . . *NOW* YOU WILL DO AS TOLD! YOU WILL HAVE YOUR COURT STENOGRAPHER, UHURA, TAKE DOWN THE REPORT AS *WE* HAVE *DICTATED* IT TO YOU! IF YOU PLAY YOUR PART RIGHT, NO ONE WILL BE HURT AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE RELEASED! OTHERWISE, I'M AFRAID YOU WILL FIND THE ALTERNATIVE MOST *UNPLEASANT!*

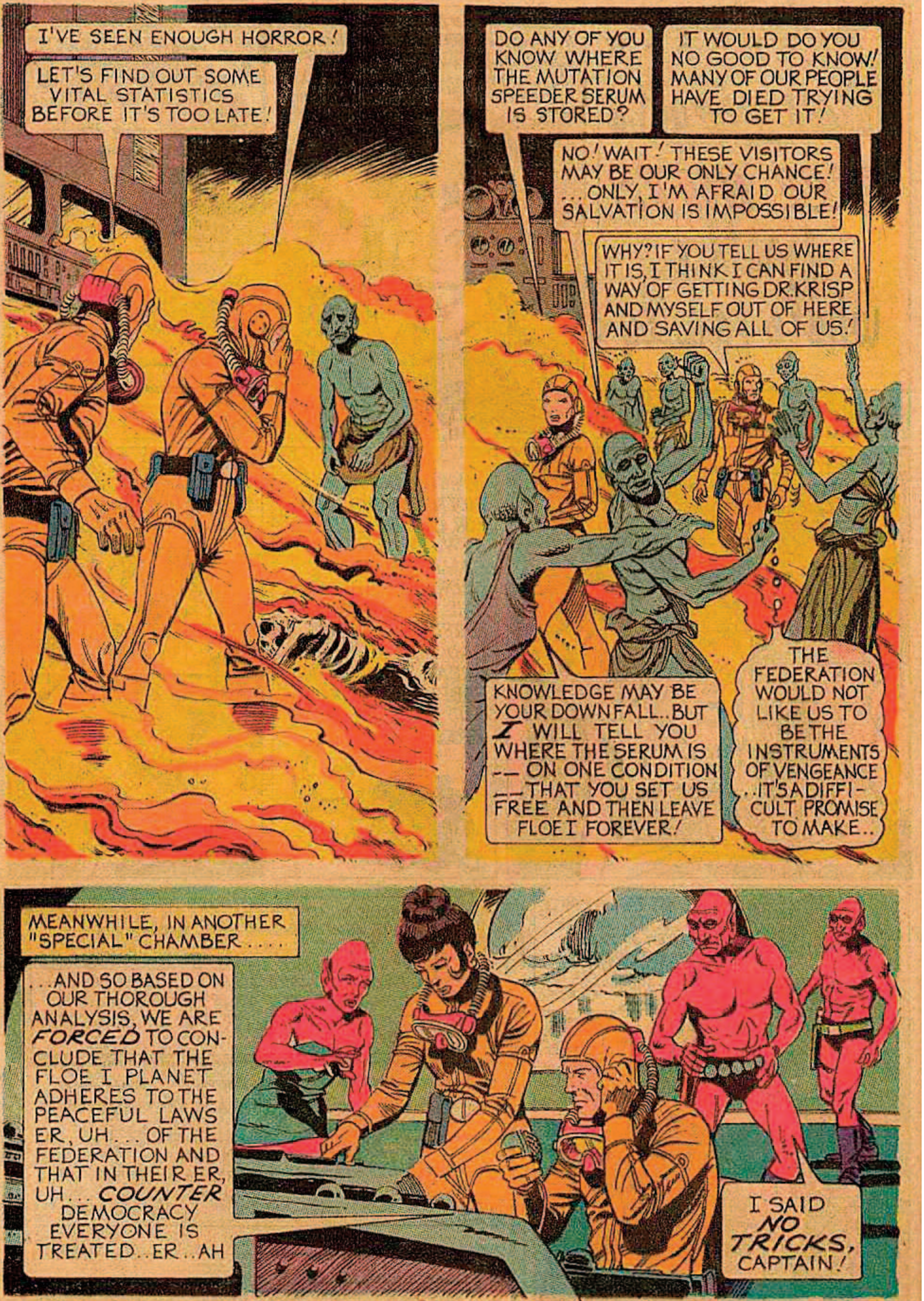

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY YOU MUST BE *AFRAID* OF US! WE'VE COME IN PEACE FROM THE FEDERATION!
PEACE IS THE IDEALIST'S WORD FOR *NONSENSE!* OUR ONLY PEACE COMES IN SURVIVAL! *SURVIVAL* FROM DAY TO DAY!
"ONCE WE WERE A VERY HAPPY PEOPLE ... OUR CIVILIZATION WAS ADMIRED BY THOUSANDS THROUGHOUT THE SOLAR SYSTEMS ...."
"OUR GRASS WAS GREEN, OUR PEOPLE INDUSTRIOUS, OUR BODIES *PERFECT!* FLOE I WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLANET IN EXISTENCE WHEN WE JOINED THE FEDERATION! AND THEN CAME A FATE SO UNEXPECTED ... A *CURSE* .... I BELIEVE MR. SPOCK AND DR. KRISP ARE CATCHING A *GLIMPSE* OF IT RIGHT *NOW!*"
ELSEWHERE, DEEP IN THE FLOE I CITY...
SO THIS WAS THE FUTURE OF FLOE I MUTANTS! A WORLD OF MAD, JAILED PEOPLE!
AT THE MOMENT, MR. SPOCK, WE ARE NO FREER THAN *THEY* ARE! IN FACT, *WE* ARE CAGED ANIMALS IN THEIR *ZOO!*
URRRGH!
OOH!
OOHM!
AAAAH!

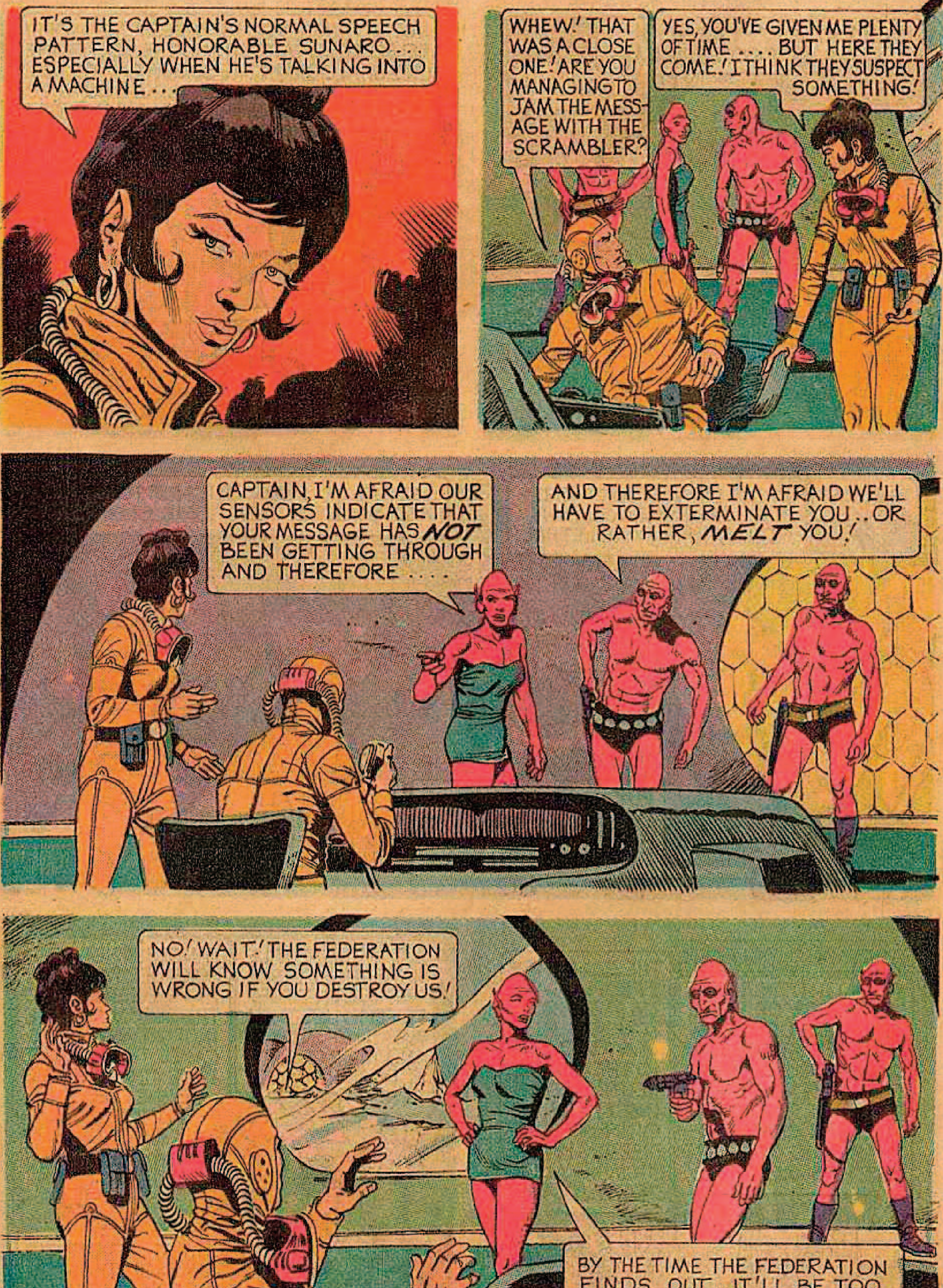
END OF PART I

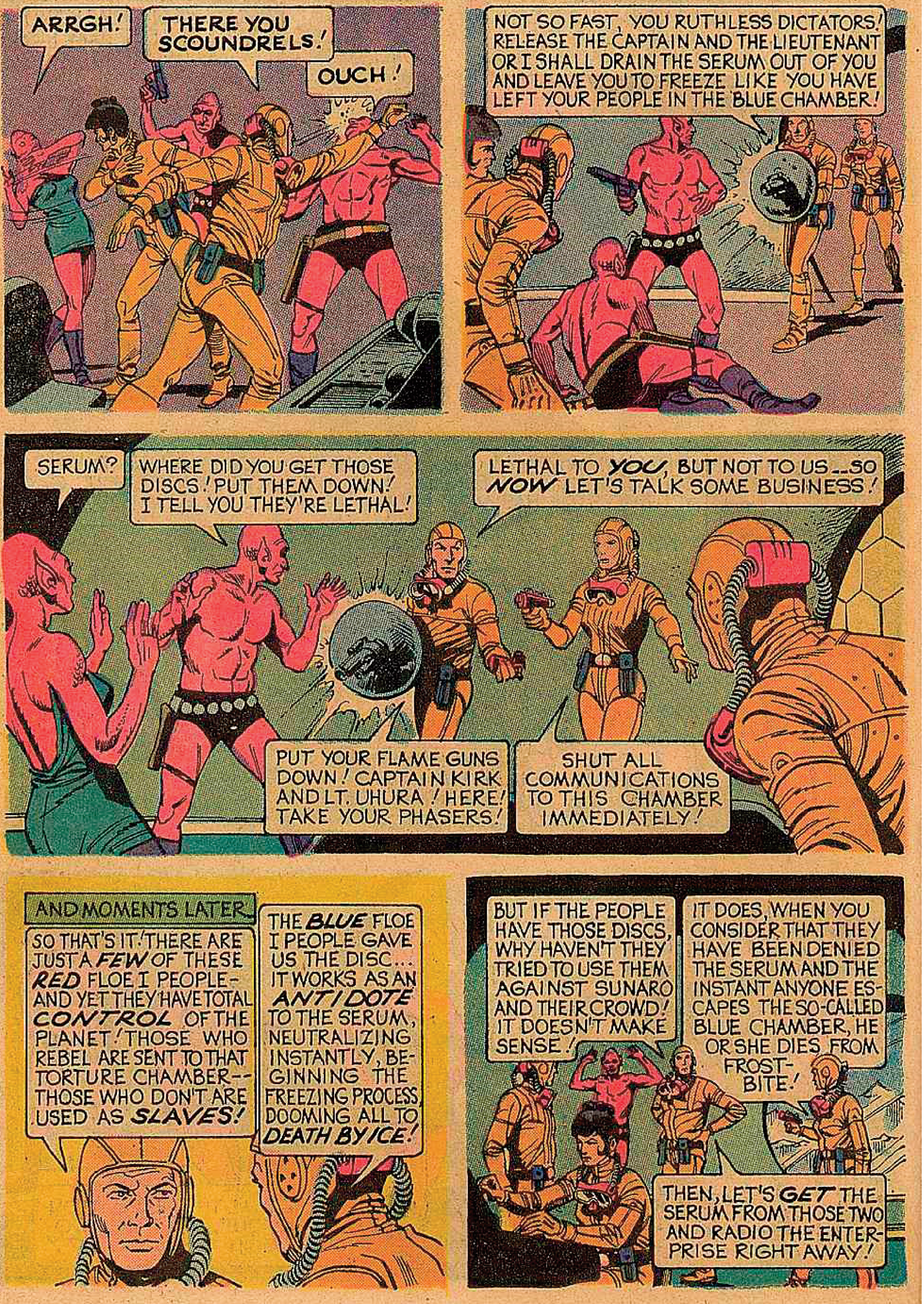

STAR TREK
PART 2
ICE JOURNEY
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 20:27.5. LIEUTENANT UHURA AND I ARE BEING HELD PRISONERS BY THE TWO LEADERS OF FLOE I -- DR. KRISP AND MR. SPOCK HAVE VANISHED! IT IS CLEAR THAT AMARA AND SUNARO INTEND TO DO AWAY WITH THE CREW AND ME AS SOON AS LIEUTENANT UHURA WRITES A FALSE REPORT ABOUT THEIR MAD SOCIETY FOR THE FEDERATION... MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT WE MANAGE TO FOOL THESE TYRANTS AND COME OUT ALIVE ... I HAVE LOST ALL COMMUNICATION WITH THE ENTERPRISE!
THESE PEOPLE ARE BURNING UP! ... AND STILL, THEY'RE *ALIVE*!
I WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO DEFINE WHAT LIFE IS UNDER *THESE* CONDITIONS, DR. KRISP!

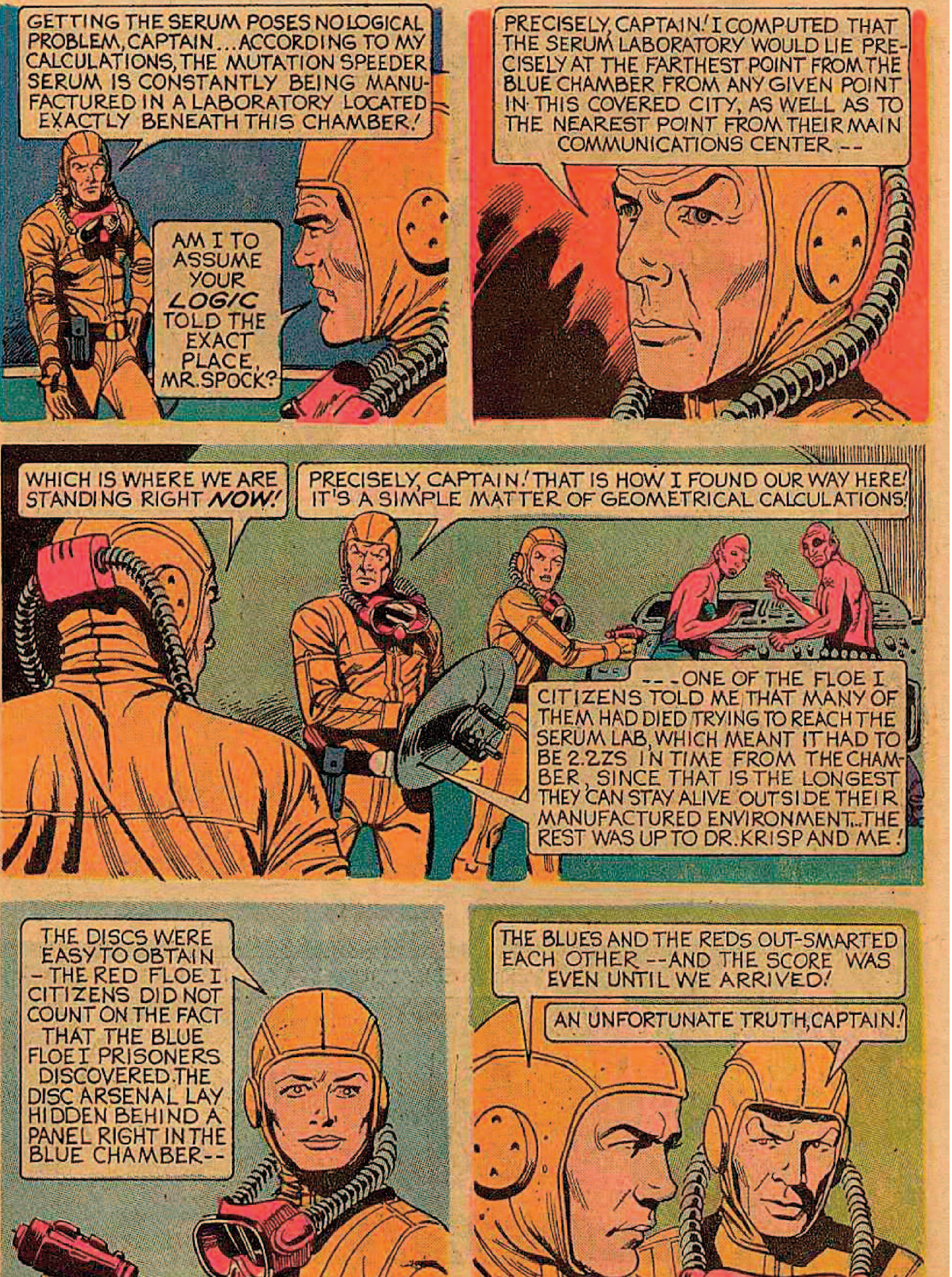

WATCH OUT FOR THOSE FLAMES, DR. KRISP! WHAT'S DEATH TO US IS EVIDENTLY LIFE TO THEM!
I BELIEVE THAT'S JUST WHAT THEIR LEADER AND COUNTER-LEADER HAVE IN MIND FOR US... WE'RE BEING BURNED AT THE STAKE FOR KNOWING TOO MUCH, JUST LIKE IT HAPPENED ON EARTH, LIGHT YEARS AGO!
HERE, MR. SPOCK, TAKE THESE HEAT-STABILIZER TABLETS! THEY WILL KEEP US INSULATED FOR A WHILE!
HELP US! DON'T FEAR US! WE'RE NOT MAD! IT'S *THEY* WHO ARE MAD! SUNARO AND AMARA, THE TRAITORS! THEY REFUSED TO GIVE US THE ***MUTATION-SPEEDER-SERUM*** BECAUSE WE DON'T FIT INTO THEIR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT!
ALL OUR BODY FLUIDS ARE FREEZING INSIDE US! OUR VEINS ARE FROZEN CHANNELS!
THEY'RE KILLING US BECAUSE WE TURNED BLUE NOT RED LIKE THEY!
AND ALL BECAUSE WE DON'T FIT INTO THEIR IDEA OF A *PERFECT* RACE!
JUST AS I THOUGHT! THESE PEOPLE ARE REALLY NO DIFFERENT FROM SUNARO, AMARA AND THEIR CROWD! THEY ARE SIMPLY BEING *PUNISHED* BECAUSE THEIR BODIES *MUTATE* INTO A DIFFERENT *COLOR*!
DR. KRISP! COME HERE, I BELIEVE I'VE MADE A MOST INTERESTING DISCOVERY!

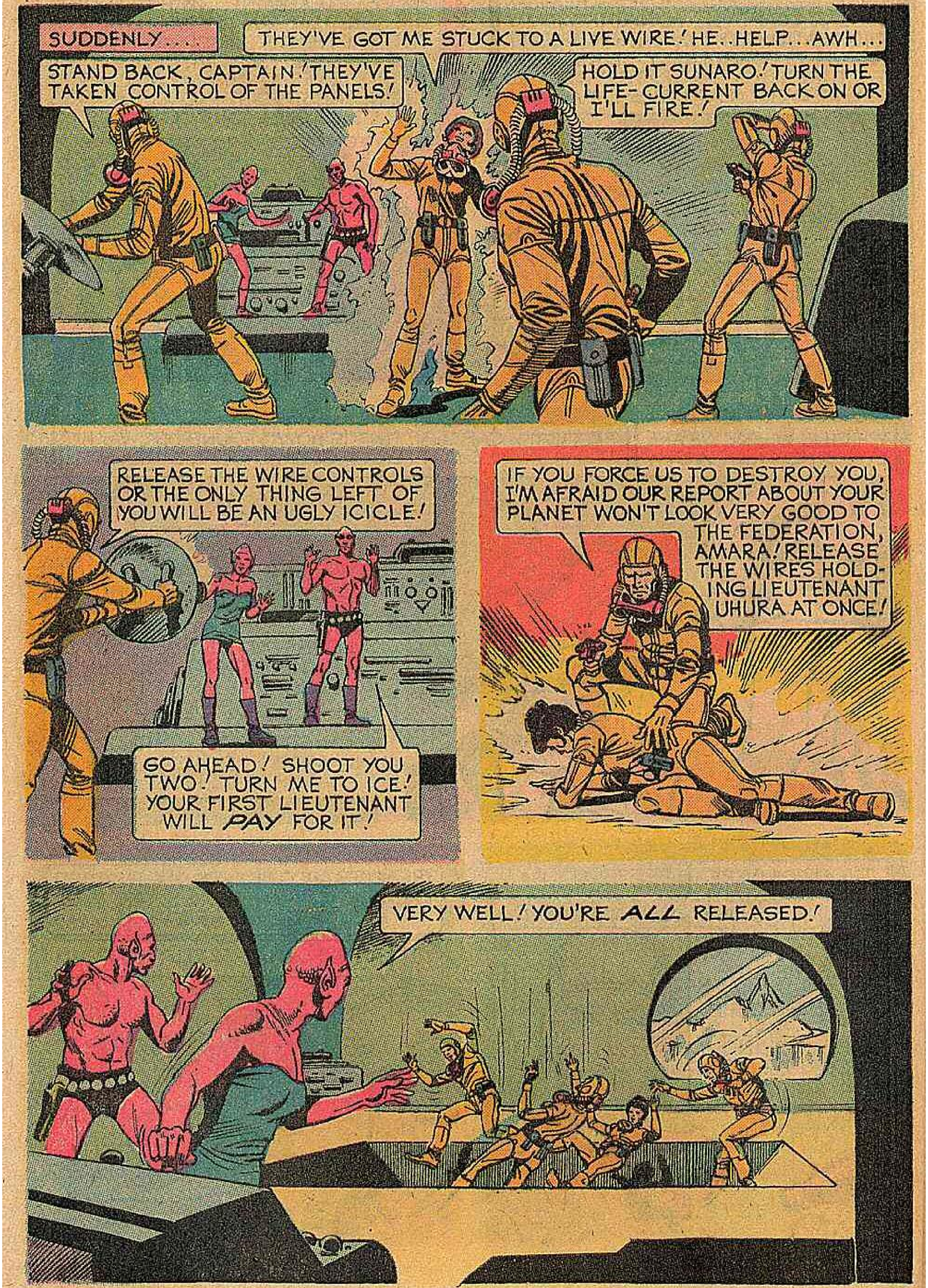

THESE PEOPLE ARE CONTROLLED HERE BY THESE COMPUTERS! THEY'RE BEING KILLED SLOWLY TO SET AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS WHO DO NOT FOLLOW THEIR LEADERS' ORDERS!
GOOD HEAVENS! IT'S A *SHOWCASE* CONCENTRATION CAMP!
OUR IMMEDIATE TASK NOW IS TWO-FOLD, DR. KRISP! WE MUST FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE, AND GET TO CAPTAIN KIRK BEFORE WE ALL BURN IN THIS HELL... EVENTUALLY THIS STRANGE ATMOSPHERIC IMBALANCE WILL GET TO US TOO!
I BELIEVE OUR SOLUTION LIES IN FINDING THE *MUTATION-SPEEDER-SERUM* TO HELP THESE POOR PEOPLE!
I BELIEVE I HAVE A WAY OF...
AHHHHHHH! HELP! HELP!
IT'S JDULA—OUR YOUNGEST DAUGHTER—THE METABOLIC IMBALANCE HAS FINALLY DESTROYED HER... PERHAPS SHE'LL BE HAPPIER NOW!
HER SUFFERING HAS STOPPED... BUT OURS HAS BEEN *DOUBLED!*

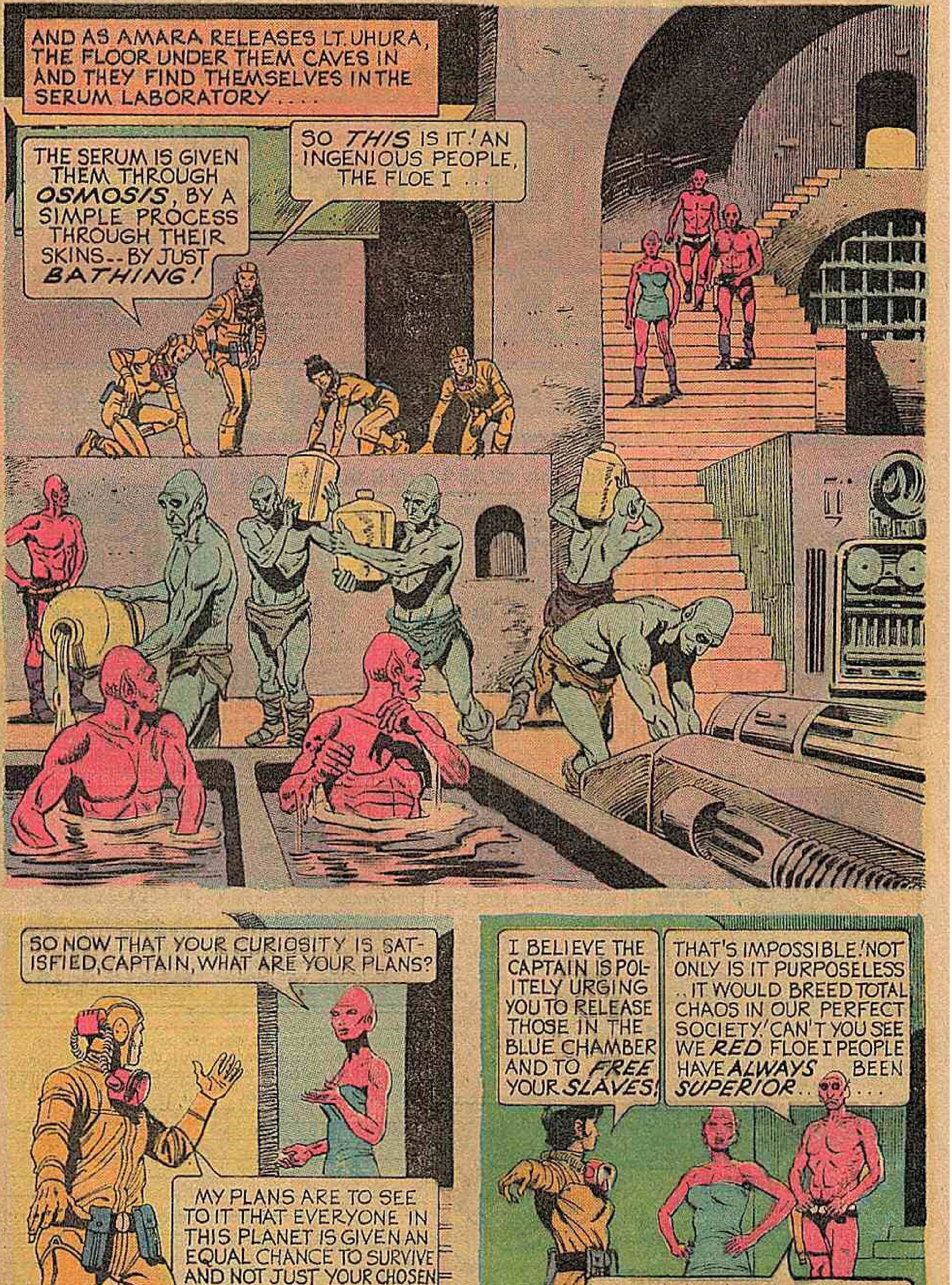

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH HORROR!
LET'S FIND OUT SOME VITAL STATISTICS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
DO ANY OF YOU KNOW WHERE THE MUTATION SPEEDER SERUM IS STORED?
IT WOULD DO YOU NO GOOD TO KNOW! MANY OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE DIED TRYING TO GET IT!
NO! WAIT! THESE VISITORS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE! ...ONLY, I'M AFRAID OUR SALVATION IS IMPOSSIBLE!
WHY? IF YOU TELL US WHERE IT IS, I THINK I CAN FIND A WAY OF GETTING DR. KRISP AND MYSELF OUT OF HERE AND SAVING ALL OF US!
KNOWLEDGE MAY BE YOUR DOWNFALL.. BUT *I* WILL TELL YOU WHERE THE SERUM IS -- ON ONE CONDITION -- THAT YOU SET US FREE AND THEN LEAVE FLOE I FOREVER!
THE FEDERATION WOULD NOT LIKE US TO BE THE INSTRUMENTS OF VENGEANCE ..IT'S A DIFFICULT PROMISE TO MAKE..
MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER "SPECIAL" CHAMBER....
...AND SO BASED ON OUR THOROUGH ANALYSIS, WE ARE *FORCED* TO CONCLUDE THAT THE FLOE I PLANET ADHERES TO THE PEACEFUL LAWS ER, UH... OF THE FEDERATION AND THAT IN THEIR ER, UH... *COUNTER* DEMOCRACY EVERYONE IS TREATED.. ER.. AH
I SAID *NO TRICKS*, CAPTAIN!

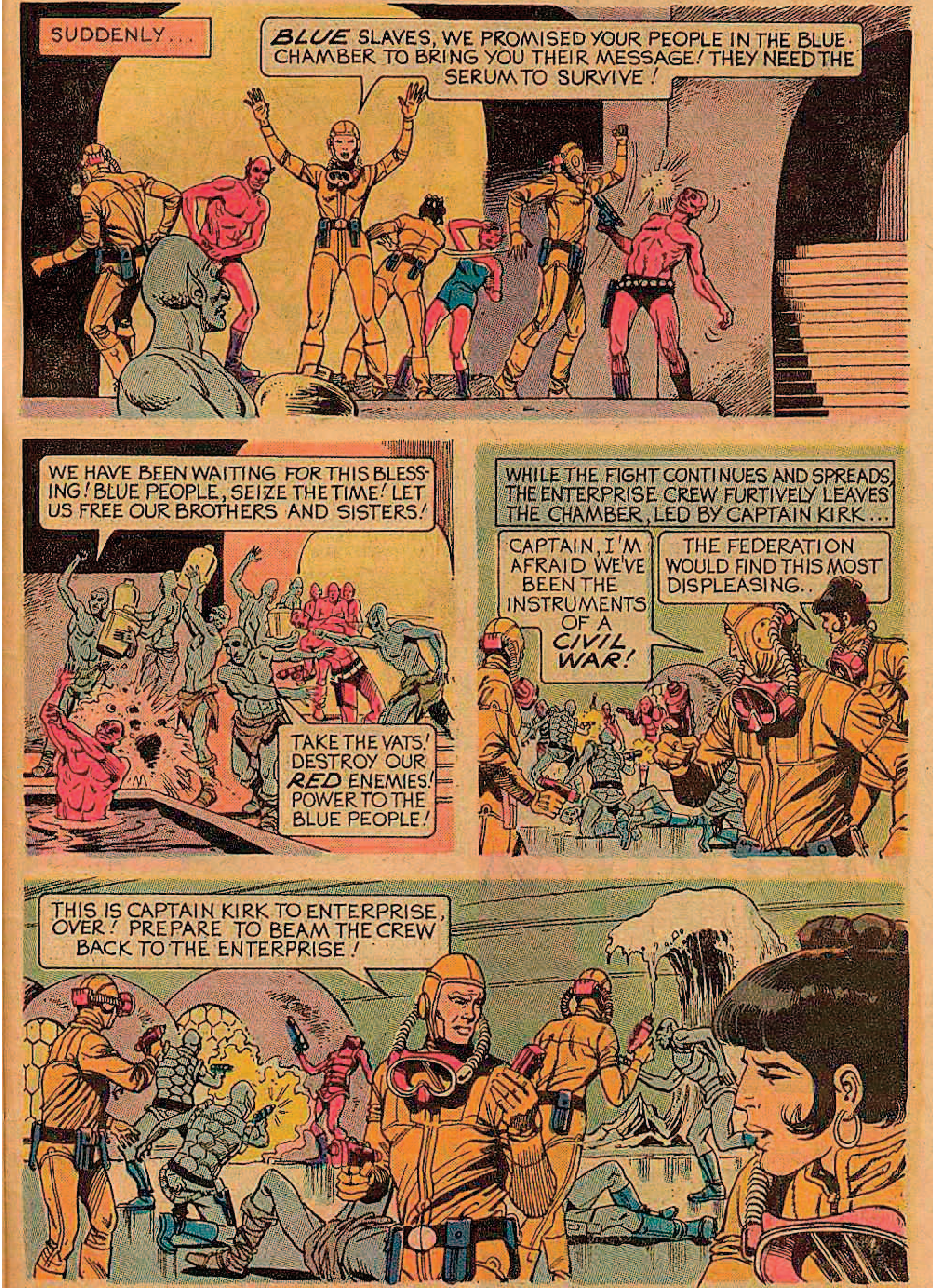

IT'S THE CAPTAIN'S NORMAL SPEECH PATTERN, HONORABLE SUNARO... ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S TALKING INTO A MACHINE...
WHEW! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! ARE YOU MANAGING TO JAM THE MESSAGE WITH THE SCRAMBLER?
YES, YOU'VE GIVEN ME PLENTY OF TIME.... BUT HERE THEY COME! I THINK THEY SUSPECT SOMETHING!
CAPTAIN, I'M AFRAID OUR SENSORS INDICATE THAT YOUR MESSAGE HAS *NOT* BEEN GETTING THROUGH AND THEREFORE....
AND THEREFORE I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO EXTERMINATE YOU.. OR RATHER, *MELT* YOU!
NO! WAIT! THE FEDERATION WILL KNOW SOMETHING IS WRONG IF YOU DESTROY US!
BY THE TIME THE FEDERATION FINDS OUT, IT'LL BE TOO LATE! SUNARO, *SHOOT*!

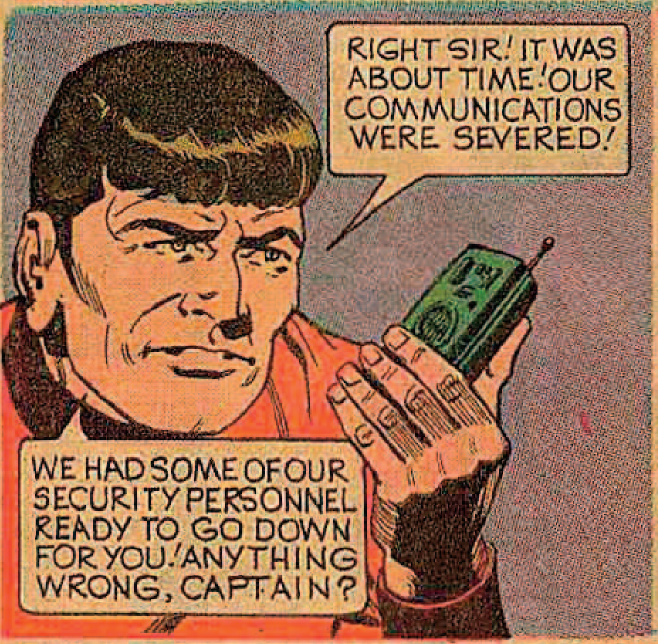

ARRGH!
THERE YOU SCOUNDRELS!
OUCH!
NOT SO FAST, YOU RUTHLESS DICTATORS! RELEASE THE CAPTAIN AND THE LIEUTENANT OR I SHALL DRAIN THE SERUM OUT OF YOU AND LEAVE YOU TO FREEZE LIKE YOU HAVE LEFT YOUR PEOPLE IN THE BLUE CHAMBER!
SERUM?
WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE DISCS! PUT THEM DOWN! I TELL YOU THEY'RE LETHAL!
LETHAL TO *YOU*, BUT NOT TO US...SO *NOW* LET'S TALK SOME BUSINESS!
PUT YOUR FLAME GUNS DOWN! CAPTAIN KIRK AND LT. UHURA! HERE! TAKE YOUR PHASERS!
SHUT ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THIS CHAMBER IMMEDIATELY!
AND MOMENTS LATER
SO THAT'S IT! THERE ARE JUST A *FEW* OF THESE *RED* FLOE I PEOPLE–AND YET THEY HAVE TOTAL *CONTROL* OF THE PLANET! THOSE WHO REBEL ARE SENT TO THAT TORTURE CHAMBER--THOSE WHO DON'T ARE USED AS *SLAVES!*
THE *BLUE* FLOE I PEOPLE GAVE US THE DISC... IT WORKS AS AN *ANTIDOTE* TO THE SERUM, NEUTRALIZING INSTANTLY, BEGINNING THE FREEZING PROCESS DOOMING ALL TO *DEATH BY ICE!*
BUT IF THE PEOPLE HAVE THOSE DISCS, WHY HAVEN'T THEY TRIED TO USE THEM AGAINST SUNARO AND THEIR CROWD! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
IT DOES, WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DENIED THE SERUM AND THE INSTANT ANYONE ESCAPES THE SO-CALLED BLUE CHAMBER, HE OR SHE DIES FROM FROST-BITE!
THEN, LET'S *GET* THE SERUM FROM THOSE TWO AND RADIO THE ENTERPRISE RIGHT AWAY!

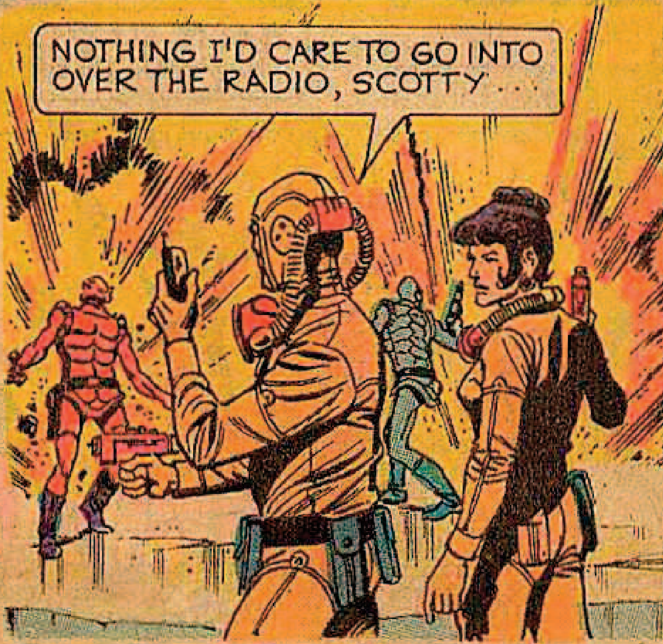

GETTING THE SERUM POSES NO LOGICAL PROBLEM, CAPTAIN... ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THE MUTATION SPEEDER SERUM IS CONSTANTLY BEING MANUFACTURED IN A LABORATORY LOCATED EXACTLY BENEATH THIS CHAMBER!
AM I TO ASSUME YOUR *LOGIC* TOLD THE EXACT PLACE, MR. SPOCK?
PRECISELY, CAPTAIN! I COMPUTED THAT THE SERUM LABORATORY WOULD LIE PRECISELY AT THE FARTHEST POINT FROM THE BLUE CHAMBER FROM ANY GIVEN POINT IN THIS COVERED CITY, AS WELL AS TO THE NEAREST POINT FROM THEIR MAIN COMMUNICATIONS CENTER --
WHICH IS WHERE WE ARE STANDING RIGHT *NOW!*
PRECISELY, CAPTAIN! THAT IS HOW I FOUND OUR WAY HERE! IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER OF GEOMETRICAL CALCULATIONS!
---ONE OF THE FLOE I CITIZENS TOLD ME THAT MANY OF THEM HAD DIED TRYING TO REACH THE SERUM LAB, WHICH MEANT IT HAD TO BE 2.2ZS IN TIME FROM THE CHAMBER, SINCE THAT IS THE LONGEST THEY CAN STAY ALIVE OUTSIDE THEIR MANUFACTURED ENVIRONMENT.. THE REST WAS UP TO DR. KRISP AND ME!
THE DISCS WERE EASY TO OBTAIN - THE RED FLOE I CITIZENS DID NOT COUNT ON THE FACT THAT THE BLUE FLOE I PRISONERS DISCOVERED THE DISC ARSENAL LAY HIDDEN BEHIND A PANEL RIGHT IN THE BLUE CHAMBER--
THE BLUES AND THE REDS OUT-SMARTED EACH OTHER --AND THE SCORE WAS EVEN UNTIL WE ARRIVED!
AN UNFORTUNATE TRUTH, CAPTAIN!

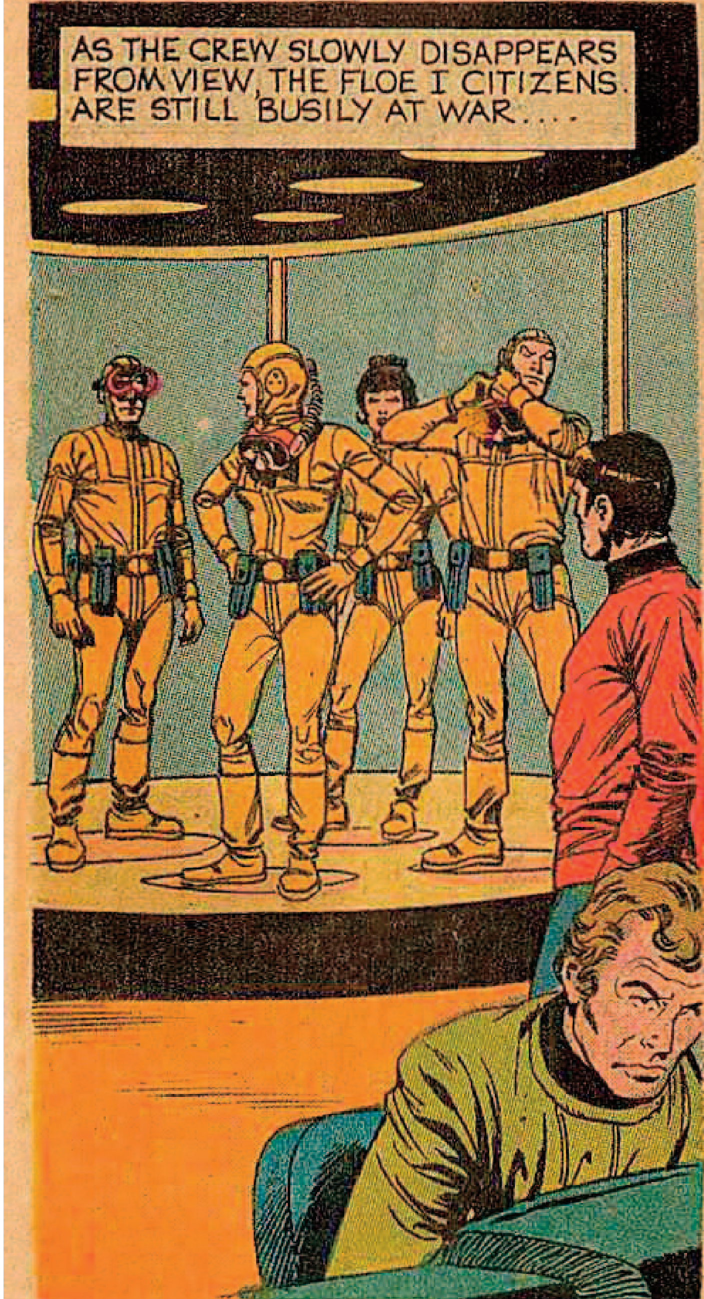

SUDDENLY....
THEY'VE GOT ME STUCK TO A LIVE WIRE! HE..HELP...AWH...
STAND BACK, CAPTAIN! THEY'VE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE PANELS!
HOLD IT SUNARO! TURN THE LIFE-CURRENT BACK ON OR I'LL FIRE!
RELEASE THE WIRE CONTROLS OR THE ONLY THING LEFT OF YOU WILL BE AN UGLY ICICLE!
GO AHEAD! SHOOT YOU TWO! TURN ME TO ICE! YOUR FIRST LIEUTENANT WILL PAY FOR IT!
IF YOU FORCE US TO DESTROY YOU, I'M AFRAID OUR REPORT ABOUT YOUR PLANET WON'T LOOK VERY GOOD TO THE FEDERATION, AMARA! RELEASE THE WIRES HOLDING LIEUTENANT UHURA AT ONCE!
VERY WELL! YOU'RE ALL RELEASED!

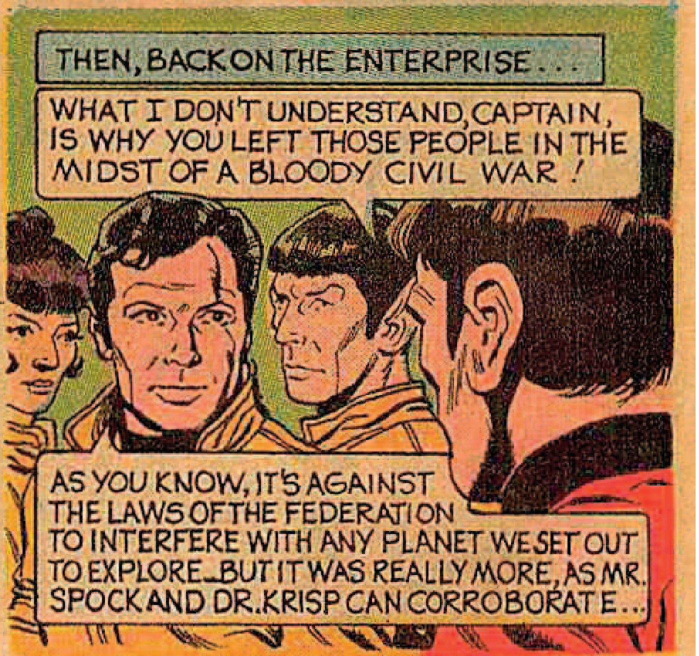

AND AS AMARA RELEASES LT. UHURA, THE FLOOR UNDER THEM CAVES IN AND THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN THE SERUM LABORATORY . . .
THE SERUM IS GIVEN THEM THROUGH *OSMOSIS*, BY A SIMPLE PROCESS THROUGH THEIR SKINS-- BY JUST *BATHING!*
SO *THIS* IS IT! AN INGENIOUS PEOPLE, THE FLOE I . . .
SO NOW THAT YOUR CURIOSITY IS SATISFIED, CAPTAIN, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?
MY PLANS ARE TO SEE TO IT THAT EVERYONE IN THIS PLANET IS GIVEN AN EQUAL CHANCE TO SURVIVE AND NOT JUST YOUR CHOSEN FEW -- THE RED FLOES!
I BELIEVE THE CAPTAIN IS POLITELY URGING YOU TO RELEASE THOSE IN THE BLUE CHAMBER AND TO *FREE* YOUR *SLAVES!*
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NOT ONLY IS IT PURPOSELESS .. IT WOULD BREED TOTAL CHAOS IN OUR PERFECT SOCIETY! CAN'T YOU SEE WE *RED* FLOE I PEOPLE HAVE *ALWAYS* BEEN *SUPERIOR* . . .
. . . WHY WE *CREATED* THE SERUM!

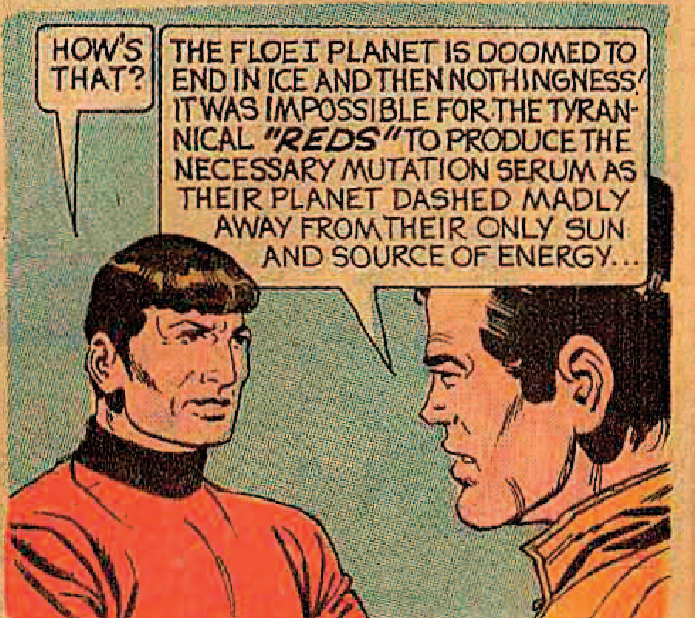

SUDDENLY...
BLUE SLAVES, WE PROMISED YOUR PEOPLE IN THE BLUE CHAMBER TO BRING YOU THEIR MESSAGE! THEY NEED THE SERUM TO SURVIVE!
WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS BLESSING! BLUE PEOPLE, SEIZE THE TIME! LET US FREE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS!
TAKE THE VATS! DESTROY OUR RED ENEMIES! POWER TO THE BLUE PEOPLE!
WHILE THE FIGHT CONTINUES AND SPREADS, THE ENTERPRISE CREW FURTIVELY LEAVES THE CHAMBER, LED BY CAPTAIN KIRK...
CAPTAIN, I'M AFRAID WE'VE BEEN THE INSTRUMENTS OF A CIVIL WAR!
THE FEDERATION WOULD FIND THIS MOST DISPLEASING..
THIS IS CAPTAIN KIRK TO ENTERPRISE, OVER! PREPARE TO BEAM THE CREW BACK TO THE ENTERPRISE!

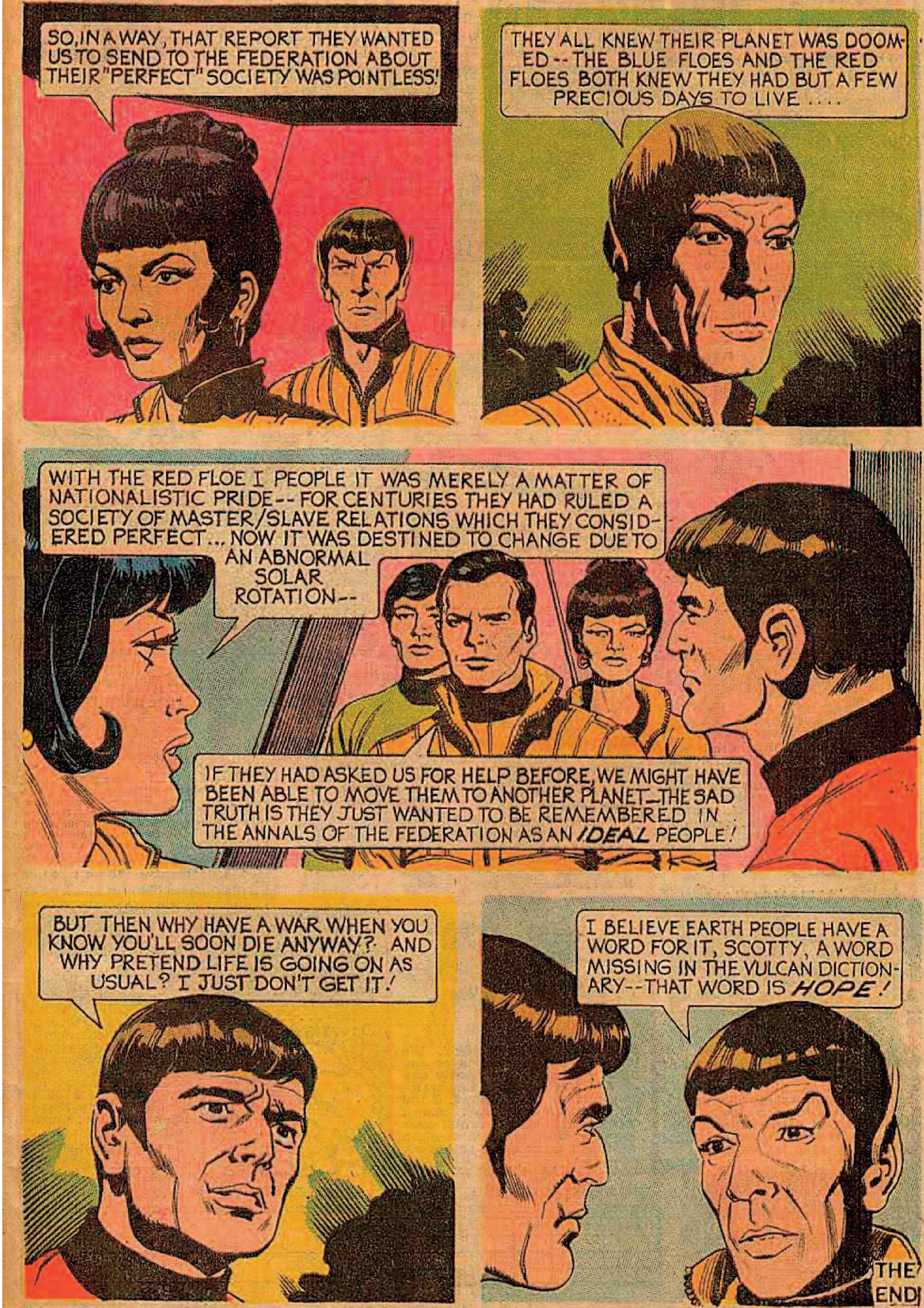

RIGHT SIR! IT WAS ABOUT TIME! OUR COMMUNICATIONS WERE SEVERED!
WE HAD SOME OF OUR SECURITY PERSONNEL READY TO GO DOWN FOR YOU! ANYTHING WRONG, CAPTAIN?

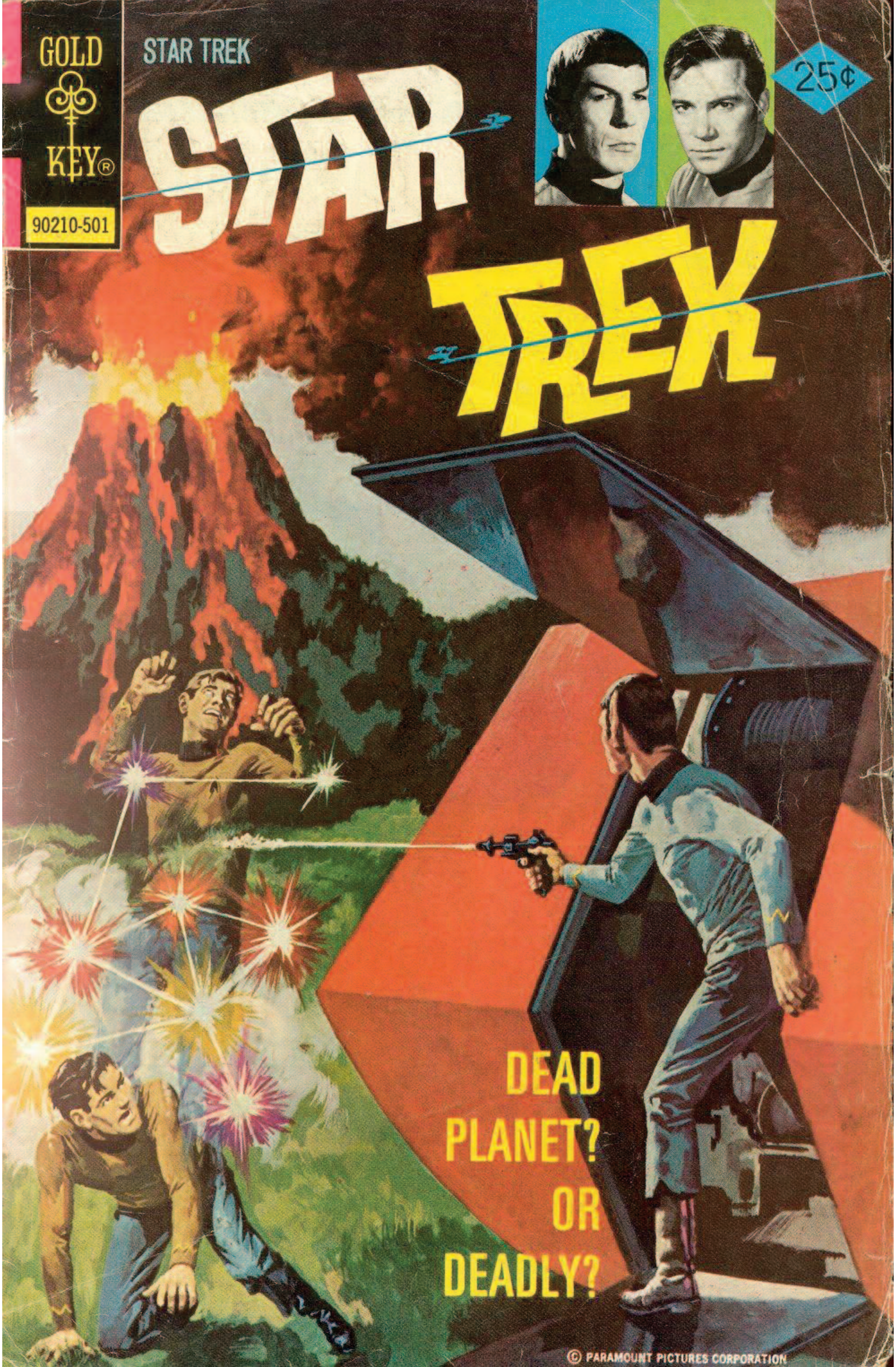

NOTHING I'D CARE TO GO INTO OVER THE RADIO, SCOTTY...


AS THE CREW SLOWLY DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW, THE FLOE I CITIZENS ARE STILL BUSILY AT WAR....


THEN, BACK ON THE ENTERPRISE...
WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN, IS WHY YOU LEFT THOSE PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF A BLOODY CIVIL WAR!
AS YOU KNOW, IT'S AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE FEDERATION TO INTERFERE WITH ANY PLANET WE SET OUT TO EXPLORE...BUT IT WAS REALLY MORE, AS MR. SPOCK AND DR. KRISP CAN CORROBORATE...


HOW'S THAT?
THE FLOE I PLANET IS DOOMED TO END IN ICE AND THEN NOTHINGNESS! IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE TYRANNICAL "REDS" TO PRODUCE THE NECESSARY MUTATION SERUM AS THEIR PLANET DASHED MADLY AWAY FROM THEIR ONLY SUN AND SOURCE OF ENERGY...


SO, IN A WAY, THAT REPORT THEY WANTED US TO SEND TO THE FEDERATION ABOUT THEIR "PERFECT" SOCIETY WAS POINTLESS!
THEY ALL KNEW THEIR PLANET WAS DOOMED -- THE BLUE FLOES AND THE RED FLOES BOTH KNEW THEY HAD BUT A FEW PRECIOUS DAYS TO LIVE ....
WITH THE RED FLOE I PEOPLE IT WAS MERELY A MATTER OF NATIONALISTIC PRIDE -- FOR CENTURIES THEY HAD RULED A SOCIETY OF MASTER/SLAVE RELATIONS WHICH THEY CONSIDERED PERFECT... NOW IT WAS DESTINED TO CHANGE DUE TO AN ABNORMAL SOLAR ROTATION--
IF THEY HAD ASKED US FOR HELP BEFORE, WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE THEM TO ANOTHER PLANET—THE SAD TRUTH IS THEY JUST WANTED TO BE REMEMBERED IN THE ANNALS OF THE FEDERATION AS AN *IDEAL* PEOPLE!
BUT THEN WHY HAVE A WAR WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'LL SOON DIE ANYWAY? AND WHY PRETEND LIFE IS GOING ON AS USUAL? I JUST DON'T GET IT!
I BELIEVE EARTH PEOPLE HAVE A WORD FOR IT, SCOTTY, A WORD MISSING IN THE VULCAN DICTIONARY--THAT WORD IS *HOPE*!
THE END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STAR TREK
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DEAD PLANET? OR DEADLY?
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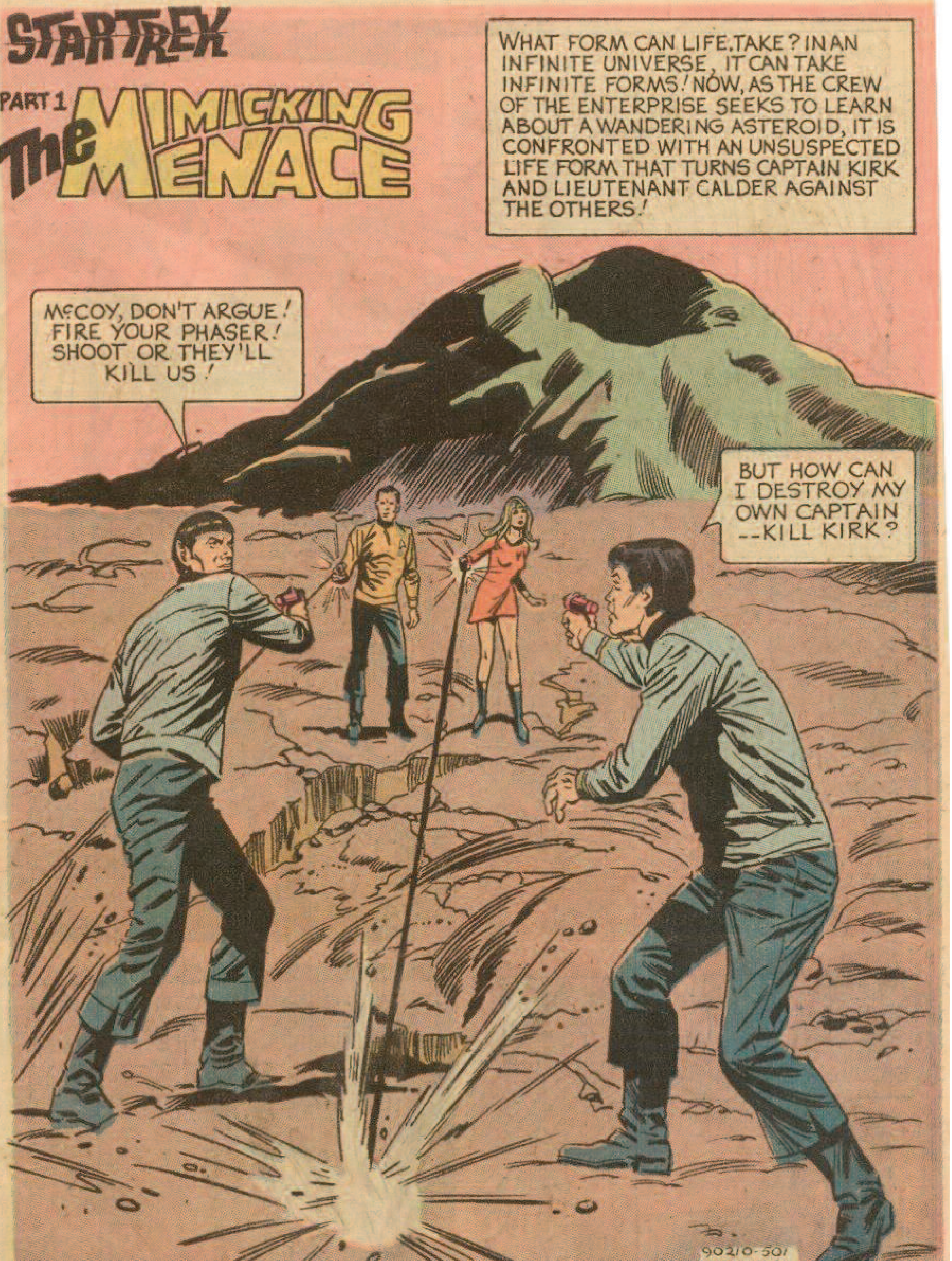
STAR TREK
PART 1 The MIMICKING MENACE
WHAT FORM CAN LIFE TAKE? IN AN INFINITE UNIVERSE, IT CAN TAKE INFINITE FORMS! NOW, AS THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE SEEKS TO LEARN ABOUT A WANDERING ASTEROID, IT IS CONFRONTED WITH AN UNSUSPECTED LIFE FORM THAT TURNS CAPTAIN KIRK AND LIEUTENANT CALDER AGAINST THE OTHERS!
McCOY, DON'T ARGUE! FIRE YOUR PHASER! SHOOT OR THEY'LL KILL US!
BUT HOW CAN I DESTROY MY OWN CAPTAIN --KILL KIRK?
90210-501
STAR TREK #28-7411

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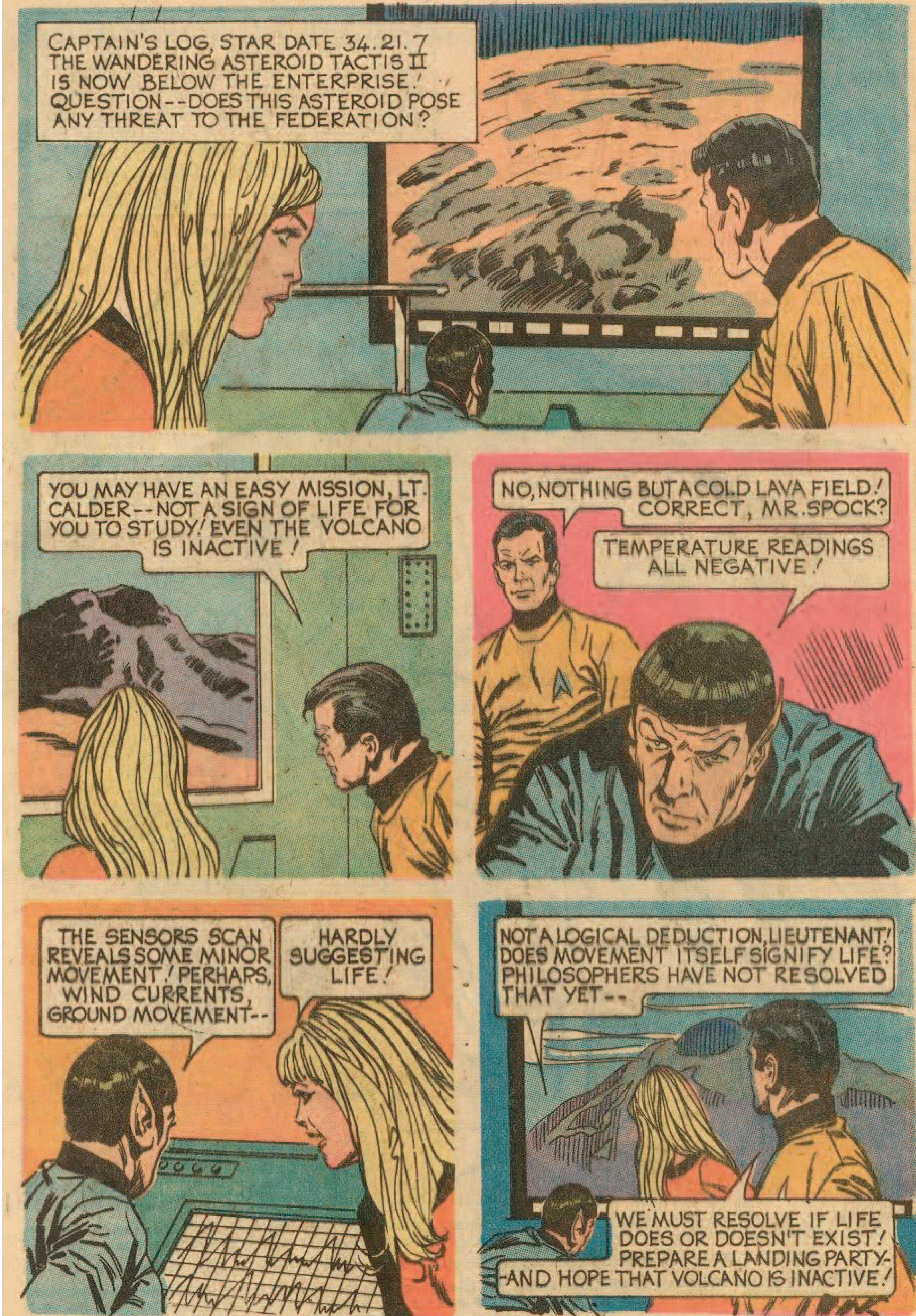
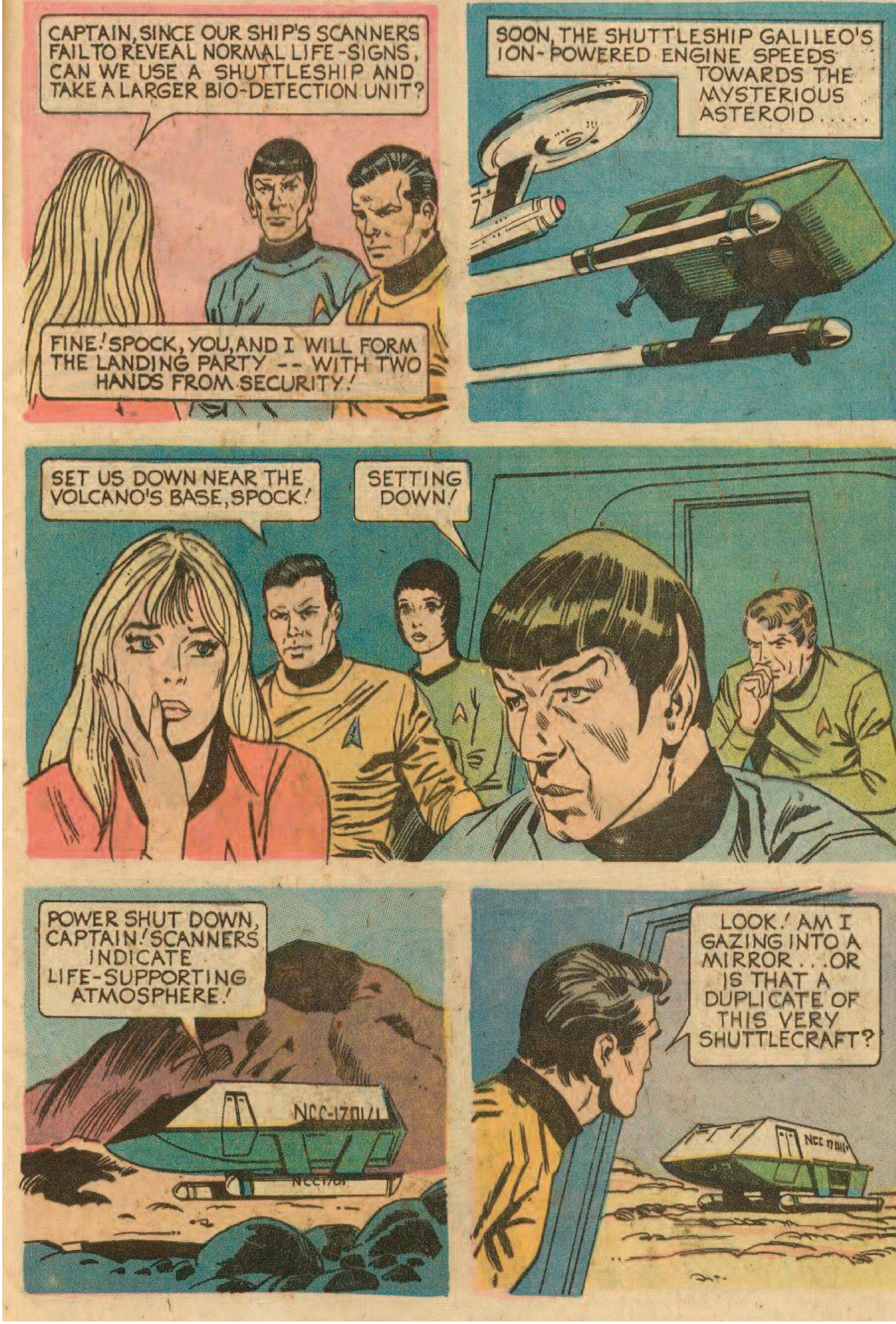
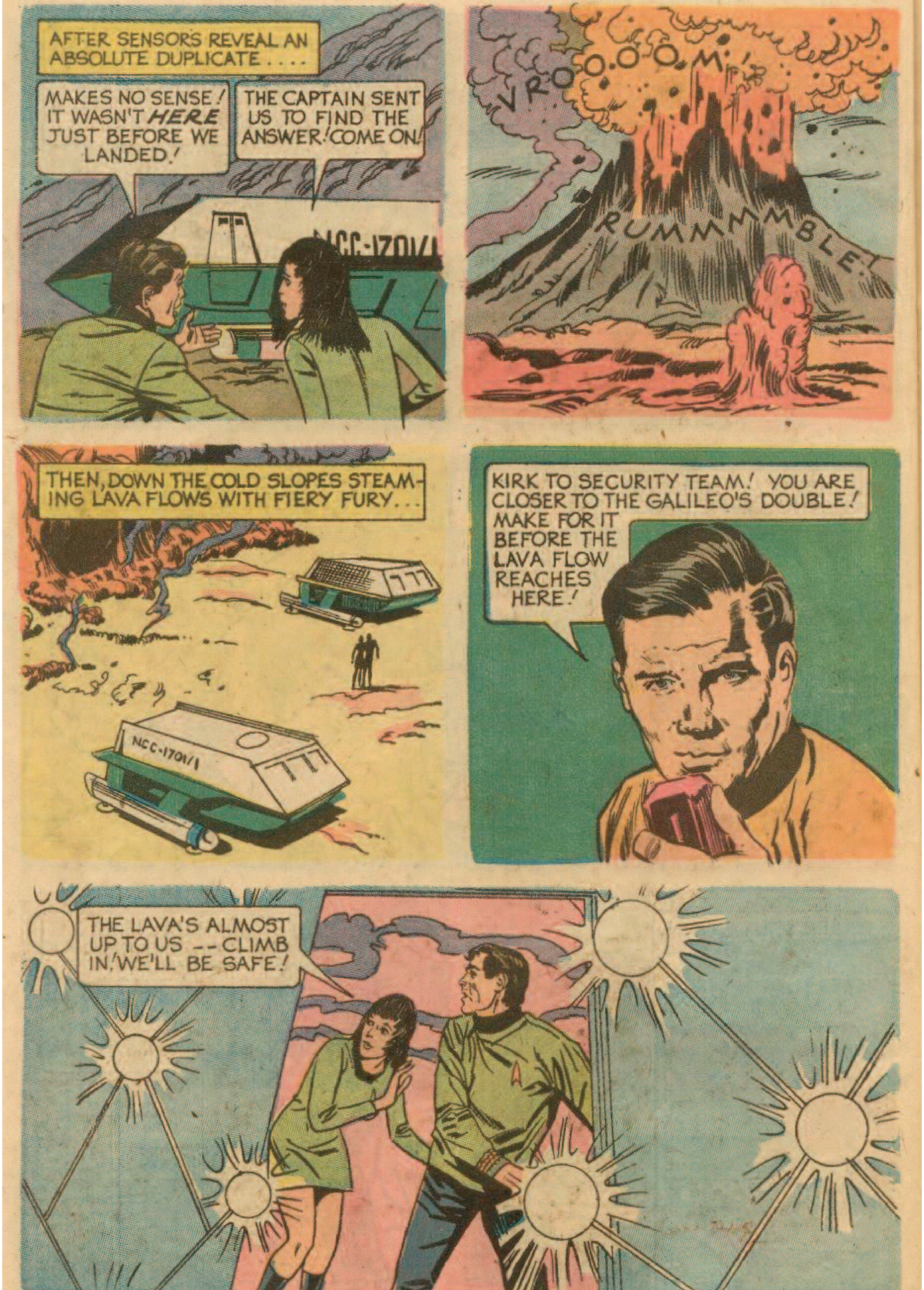
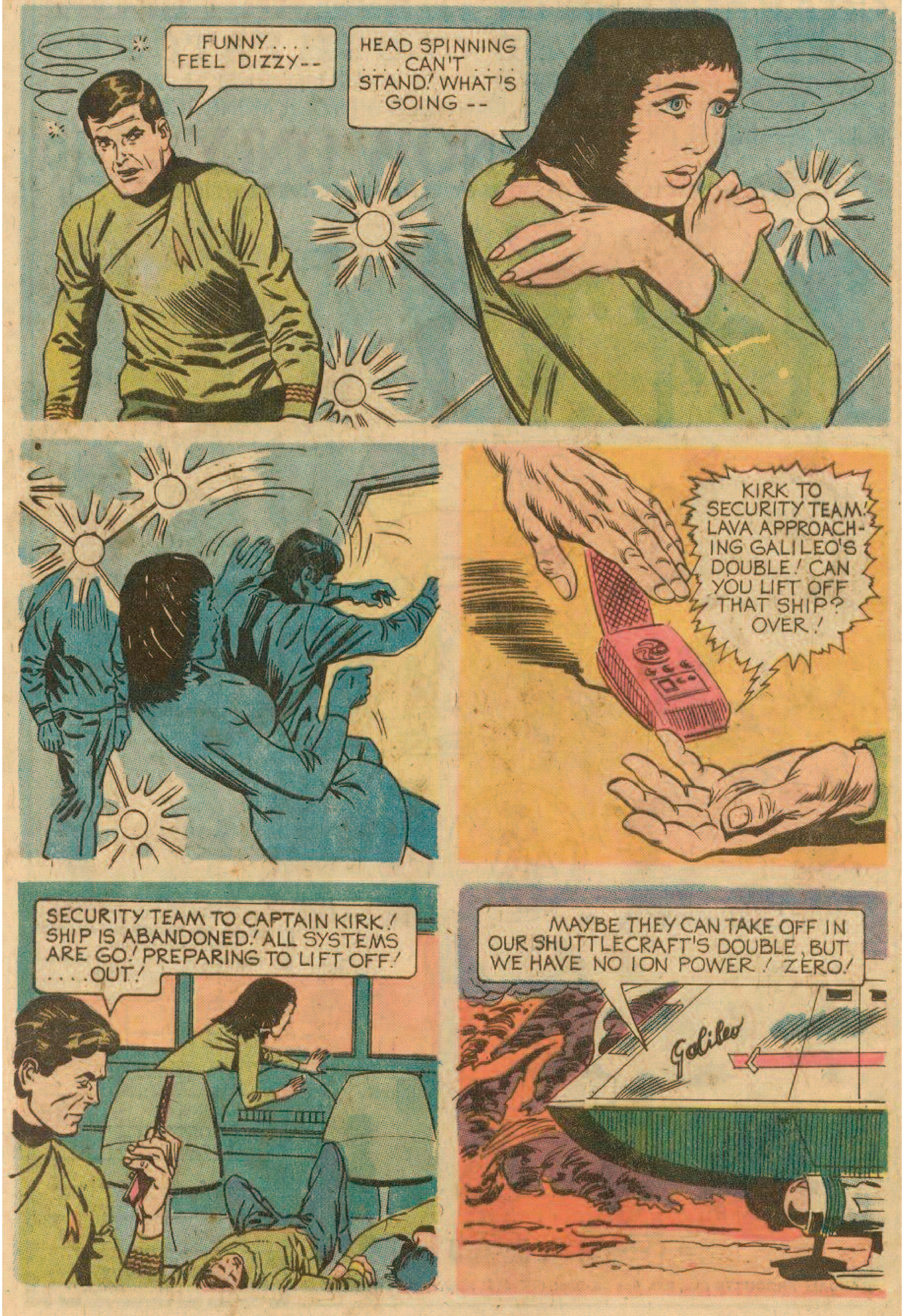
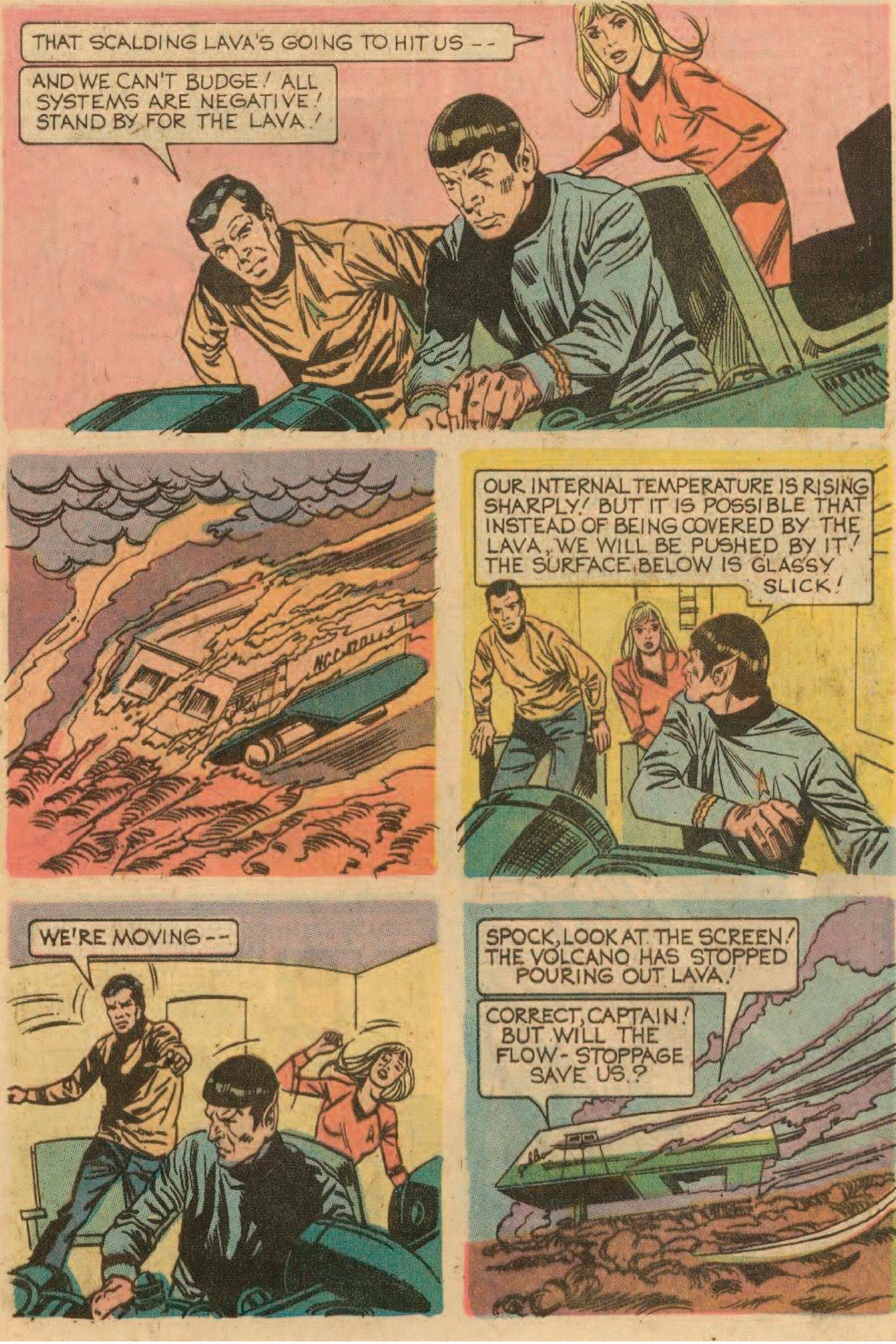
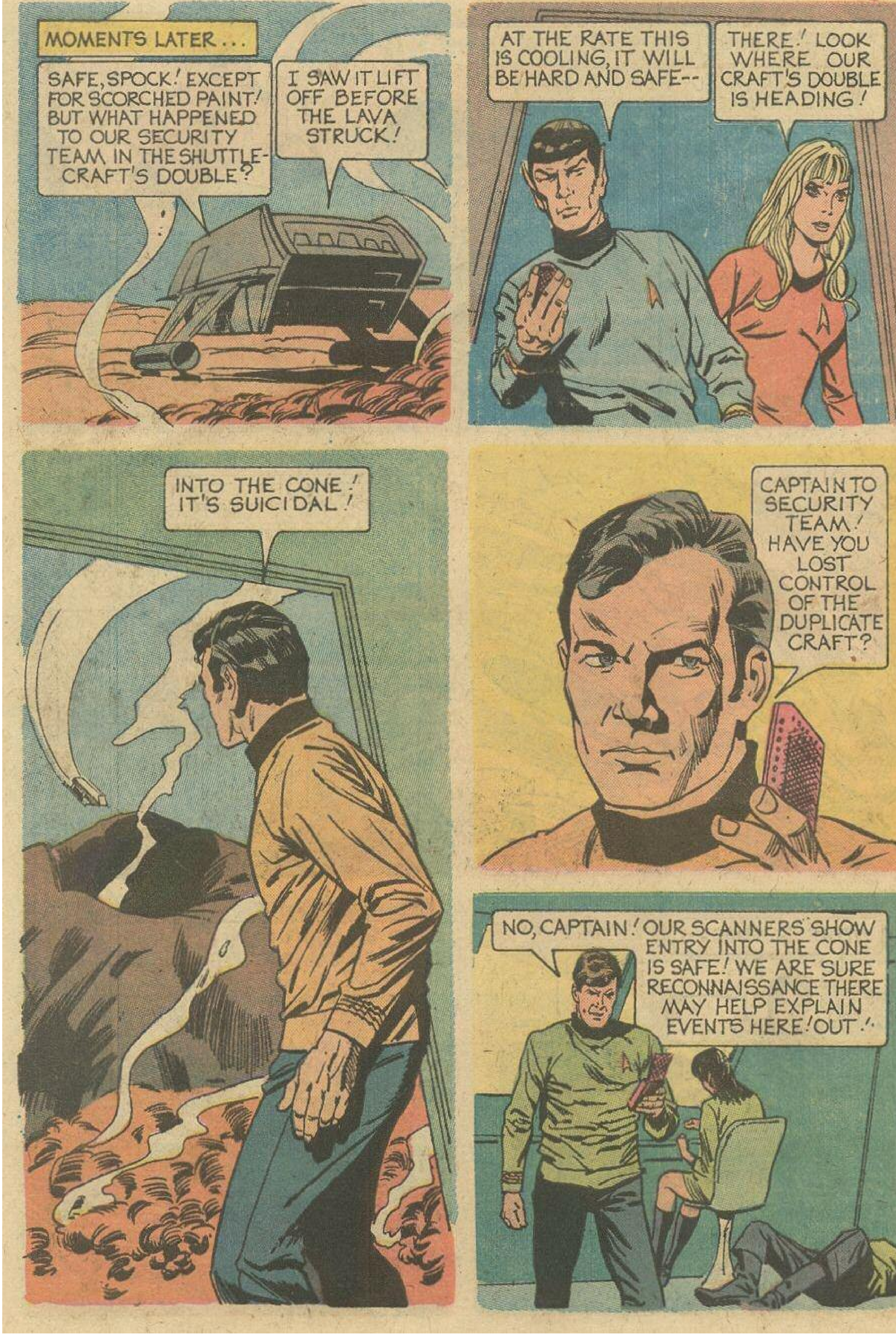

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 34.21.7 THE WANDERING ASTEROID TACTIS II IS NOW BELOW THE ENTERPRISE! QUESTION--DOES THIS ASTEROID POSE ANY THREAT TO THE FEDERATION?
YOU MAY HAVE AN EASY MISSION, LT. CALDER--NOT A SIGN OF LIFE FOR YOU TO STUDY! EVEN THE VOLCANO IS INACTIVE!
NO, NOTHING BUT A COLD LAVA FIELD! CORRECT, MR. SPOCK?
TEMPERATURE READINGS ALL NEGATIVE!
THE SENSORS SCAN REVEALS SOME MINOR MOVEMENT! PERHAPS, WIND CURRENTS, GROUND MOVEMENT--
HARDLY SUGGESTING LIFE!
NOT A LOGICAL DEDUCTION, LIEUTENANT! DOES MOVEMENT ITSELF SIGNIFY LIFE? PHILOSOPHERS HAVE NOT RESOLVED THAT YET--
WE MUST RESOLVE IF LIFE DOES OR DOESN'T EXIST! PREPARE A LANDING PARTY--AND HOPE THAT VOLCANO IS INACTIVE!

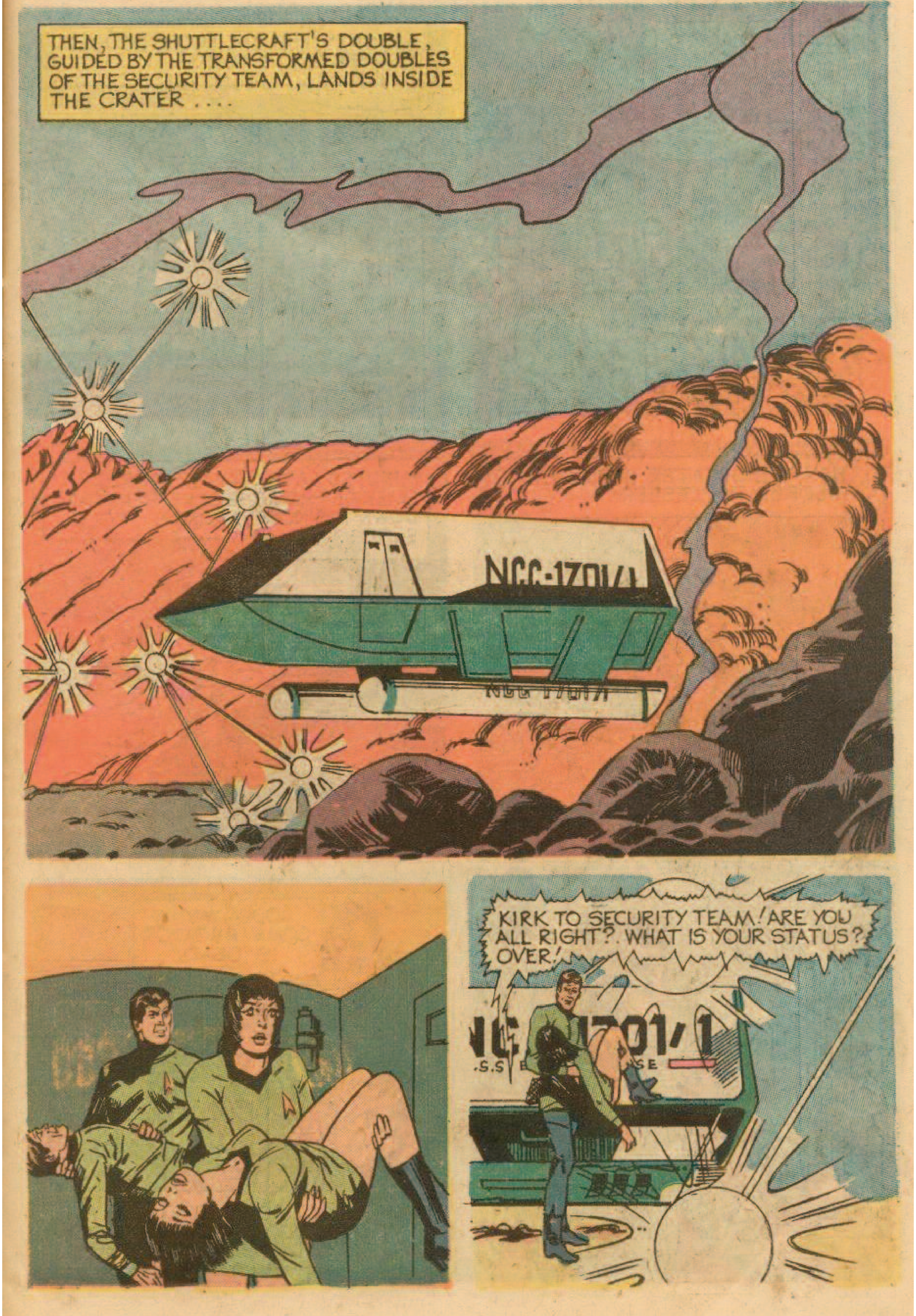

CAPTAIN, SINCE OUR SHIP'S SCANNERS FAIL TO REVEAL NORMAL LIFE-SIGNS, CAN WE USE A SHUTTLESHIP AND TAKE A LARGER BIO-DETECTION UNIT?
FINE! SPOCK, YOU, AND I WILL FORM THE LANDING PARTY -- WITH TWO HANDS FROM SECURITY!
SOON, THE SHUTTLESHIP GALILEO'S ION-POWERED ENGINE SPEEDS TOWARDS THE MYSTERIOUS ASTEROID.....
SET US DOWN NEAR THE VOLCANO'S BASE, SPOCK!
SETTING DOWN!
POWER SHUT DOWN, CAPTAIN! SCANNERS INDICATE LIFE-SUPPORTING ATMOSPHERE!
LOOK! AM I GAZING INTO A MIRROR...OR IS THAT A DUPLICATE OF THIS VERY SHUTTLECRAFT?

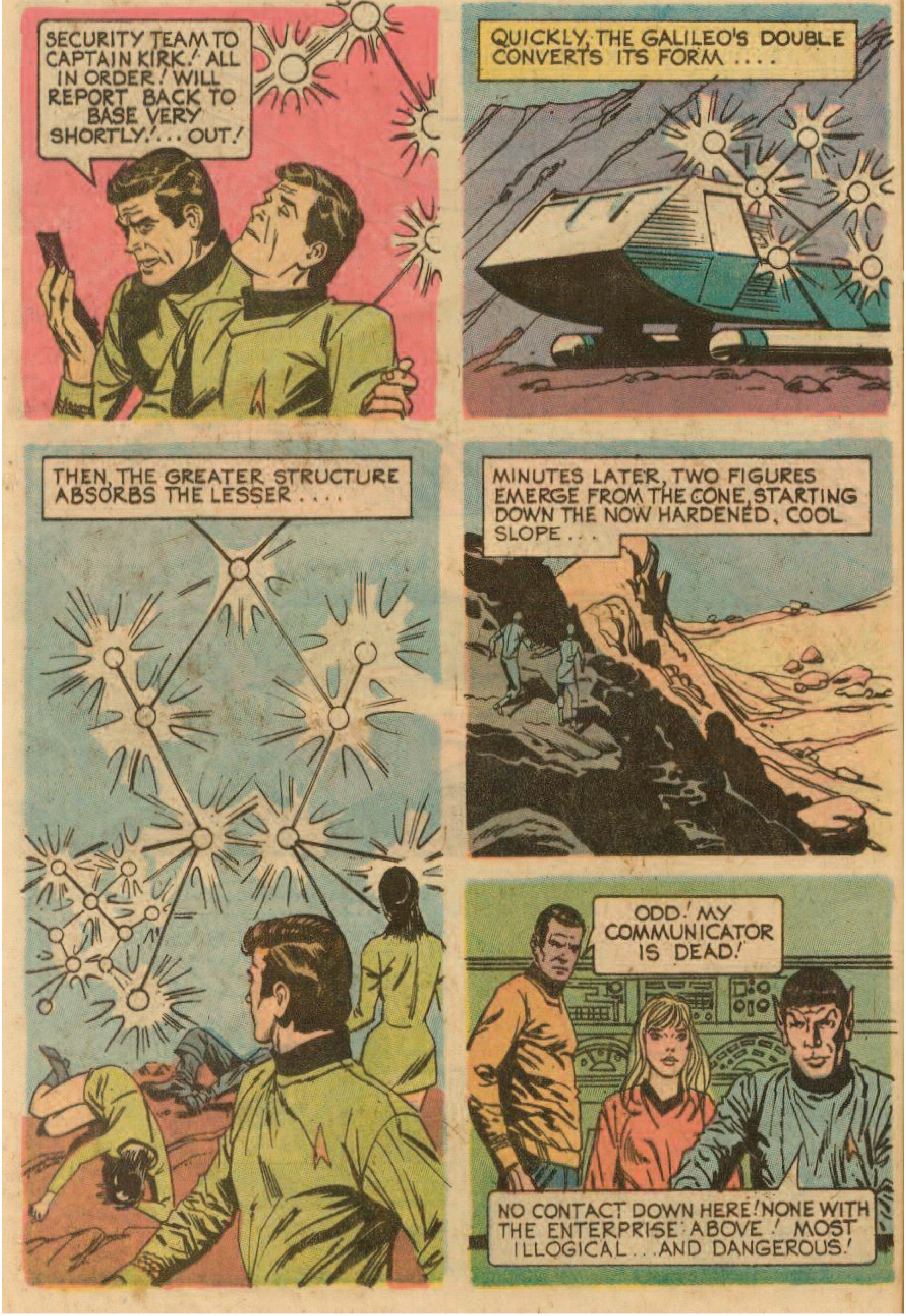

AFTER SENSORS REVEAL AN ABSOLUTE DUPLICATE . . . .
MAKES NO SENSE! IT WASN'T *HERE* JUST BEFORE WE LANDED!
THE CAPTAIN SENT US TO FIND THE ANSWER! COME ON!
NCC-1701/1
VROOOOOM!
RUMMMMBLE!
THEN, DOWN THE COLD SLOPES STEAMING LAVA FLOWS WITH FIERY FURY . . .
NCC-1701/1
KIRK TO SECURITY TEAM! YOU ARE CLOSER TO THE GALILEO'S DOUBLE! MAKE FOR IT BEFORE THE LAVA FLOW REACHES HERE!
THE LAVA'S ALMOST UP TO US -- CLIMB IN! WE'LL BE SAFE!

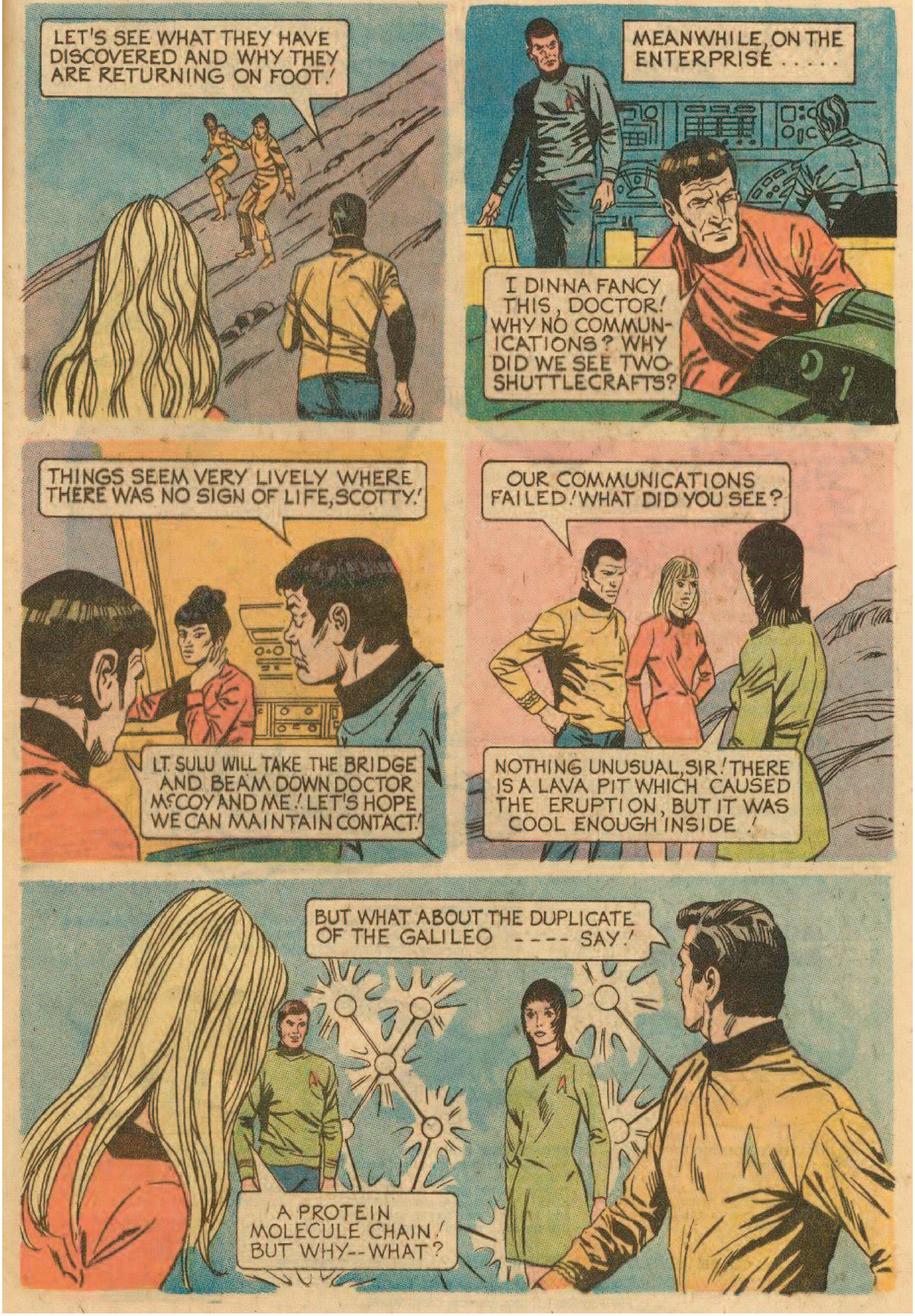

FUNNY.... FEEL DIZZY--
HEAD SPINNING ....CAN'T .... STAND! WHAT'S GOING --
KIRK TO SECURITY TEAM! LAVA APPROACHING GALILEO'S DOUBLE! CAN YOU LIFT OFF THAT SHIP? OVER!
SECURITY TEAM TO CAPTAIN KIRK! SHIP IS ABANDONED! ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO! PREPARING TO LIFT OFF! ....OUT!
MAYBE THEY CAN TAKE OFF IN OUR SHUTTLECRAFT'S DOUBLE, BUT WE HAVE NO ION POWER! ZERO!
Galileo

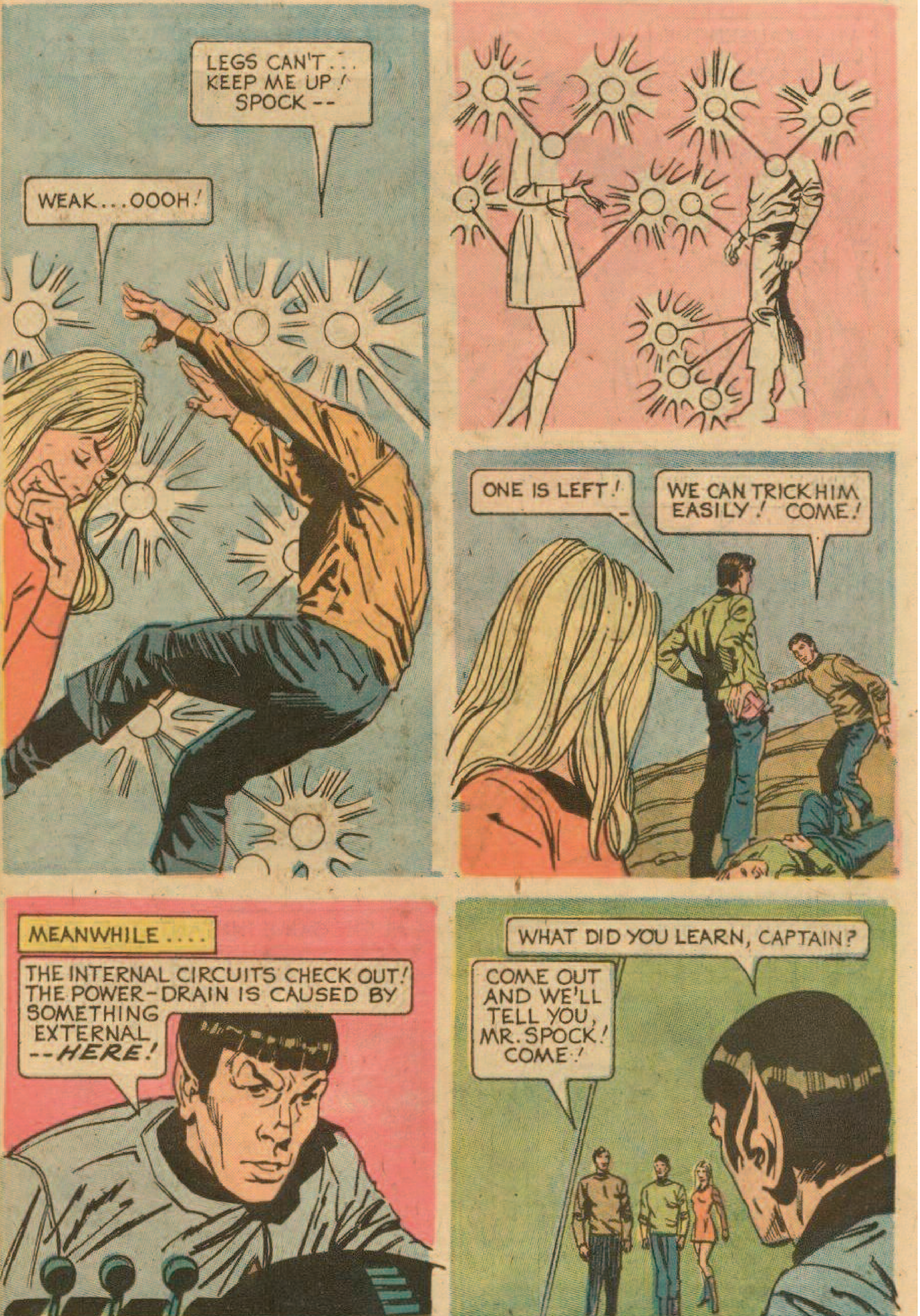

THAT SCALDING LAVA'S GOING TO HIT US --
AND WE CAN'T BUDGE! ALL SYSTEMS ARE NEGATIVE! STAND BY FOR THE LAVA!
OUR INTERNAL TEMPERATURE IS RISING SHARPLY! BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT INSTEAD OF BEING COVERED BY THE LAVA, WE WILL BE PUSHED BY IT! THE SURFACE BELOW IS GLASSY SLICK!
WE'RE MOVING --
SPOCK, LOOK AT THE SCREEN! THE VOLCANO HAS STOPPED POURING OUT LAVA!
CORRECT, CAPTAIN! BUT WILL THE FLOW-STOPPAGE SAVE US?

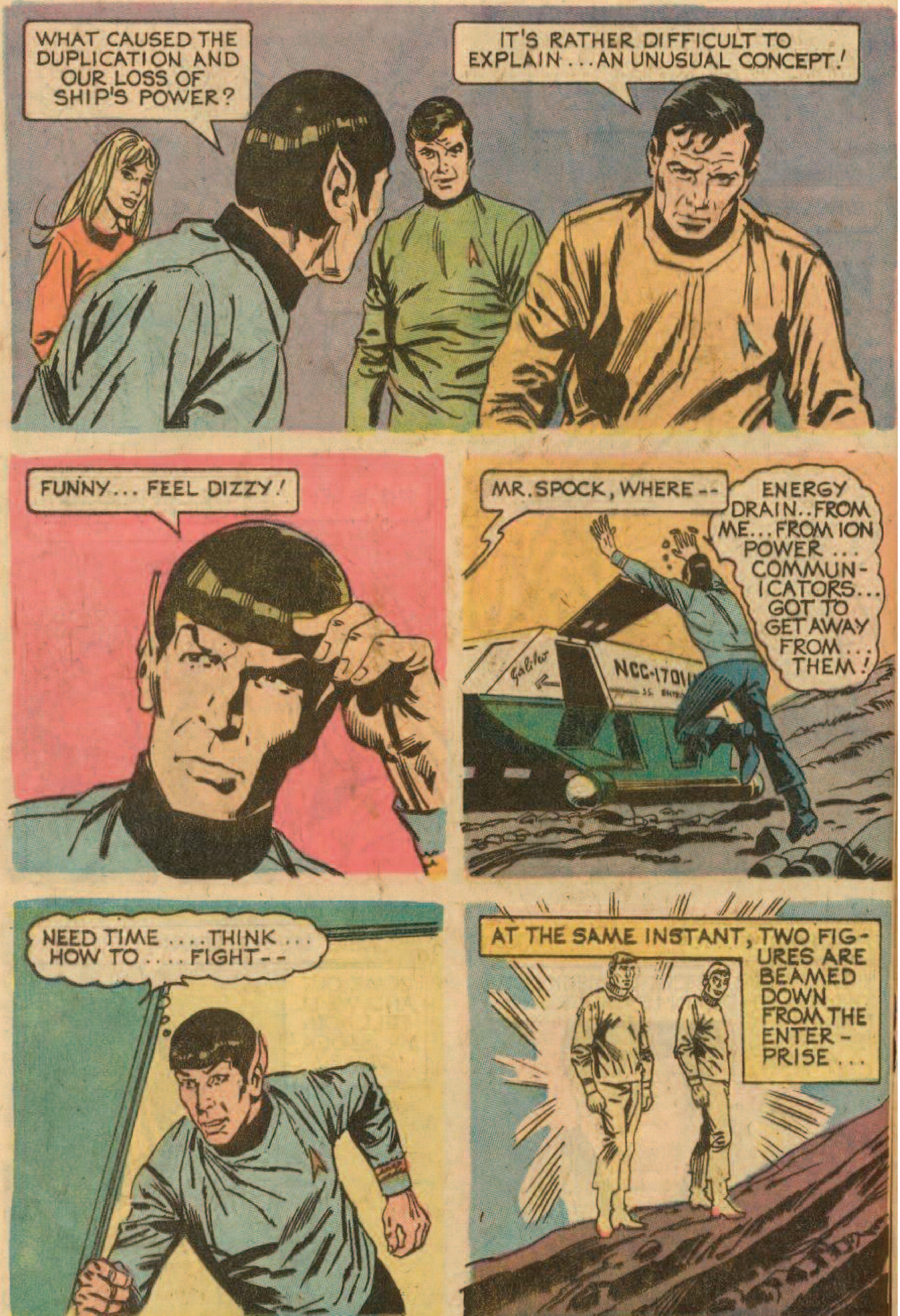

MOMENTS LATER...
SAFE, SPOCK! EXCEPT FOR SCORCHED PAINT! BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR SECURITY TEAM IN THE SHUTTLECRAFT'S DOUBLE?
I SAW IT LIFT OFF BEFORE THE LAVA STRUCK!
AT THE RATE THIS IS COOLING, IT WILL BE HARD AND SAFE--
THERE! LOOK WHERE OUR CRAFT'S DOUBLE IS HEADING!
INTO THE CONE! IT'S SUICIDAL!
CAPTAIN TO SECURITY TEAM! HAVE YOU LOST CONTROL OF THE DUPLICATE CRAFT?
NO, CAPTAIN! OUR SCANNERS SHOW ENTRY INTO THE CONE IS SAFE! WE ARE SURE RECONNAISSANCE THERE MAY HELP EXPLAIN EVENTS HERE! OUT!

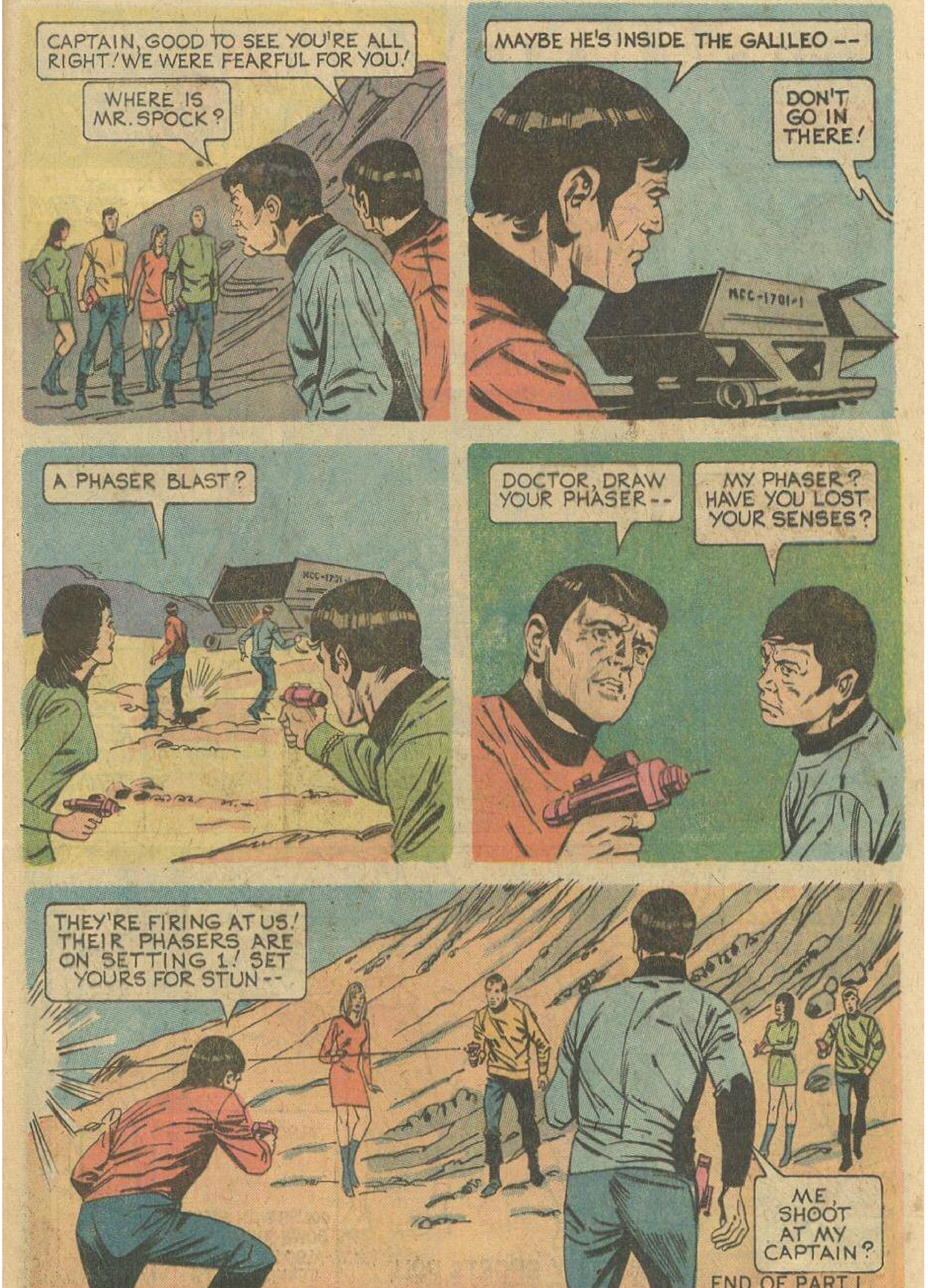

THEN, THE SHUTTLECRAFT'S DOUBLE, GUIDED BY THE TRANSFORMED DOUBLES OF THE SECURITY TEAM, LANDS INSIDE THE CRATER ....
NCC-1701/1
KIRK TO SECURITY TEAM! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?. WHAT IS YOUR STATUS? OVER!
NC 1701/1


SECURITY TEAM TO CAPTAIN KIRK! ALL IN ORDER! WILL REPORT BACK TO BASE VERY SHORTLY!... OUT!
QUICKLY, THE GALILEO'S DOUBLE CONVERTS ITS FORM....
THEN, THE GREATER STRUCTURE ABSORBS THE LESSER....
MINUTES LATER, TWO FIGURES EMERGE FROM THE CONE, STARTING DOWN THE NOW HARDENED, COOL SLOPE...
ODD! MY COMMUNICATOR IS DEAD!
NO CONTACT DOWN HERE! NONE WITH THE ENTERPRISE ABOVE! MOST ILLOGICAL...AND DANGEROUS!


LET'S SEE WHAT THEY HAVE DISCOVERED AND WHY THEY ARE RETURNING ON FOOT!
MEANWHILE, ON THE ENTERPRISE.....
I DINNA FANCY THIS, DOCTOR! WHY NO COMMUNICATIONS? WHY DID WE SEE TWO SHUTTLECRAFTS?
THINGS SEEM VERY LIVELY WHERE THERE WAS NO SIGN OF LIFE, SCOTTY!
LT. SULU WILL TAKE THE BRIDGE AND BEAM DOWN DOCTOR McCOY AND ME! LET'S HOPE WE CAN MAINTAIN CONTACT!
OUR COMMUNICATIONS FAILED! WHAT DID YOU SEE?
NOTHING UNUSUAL, SIR! THERE IS A LAVA PIT WHICH CAUSED THE ERUPTION, BUT IT WAS COOL ENOUGH INSIDE!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DUPLICATE OF THE GALILEO ---- SAY!
A PROTEIN MOLECULE CHAIN! BUT WHY--WHAT?


LEGS CAN'T... KEEP ME UP! SPOCK --
WEAK...OOOH!
ONE IS LEFT!
WE CAN TRICK HIM EASILY! COME!
MEANWHILE....
THE INTERNAL CIRCUITS CHECK OUT! THE POWER-DRAIN IS CAUSED BY SOMETHING EXTERNAL --HERE!
WHAT DID YOU LEARN, CAPTAIN?
COME OUT AND WE'LL TELL YOU, MR. SPOCK! COME!

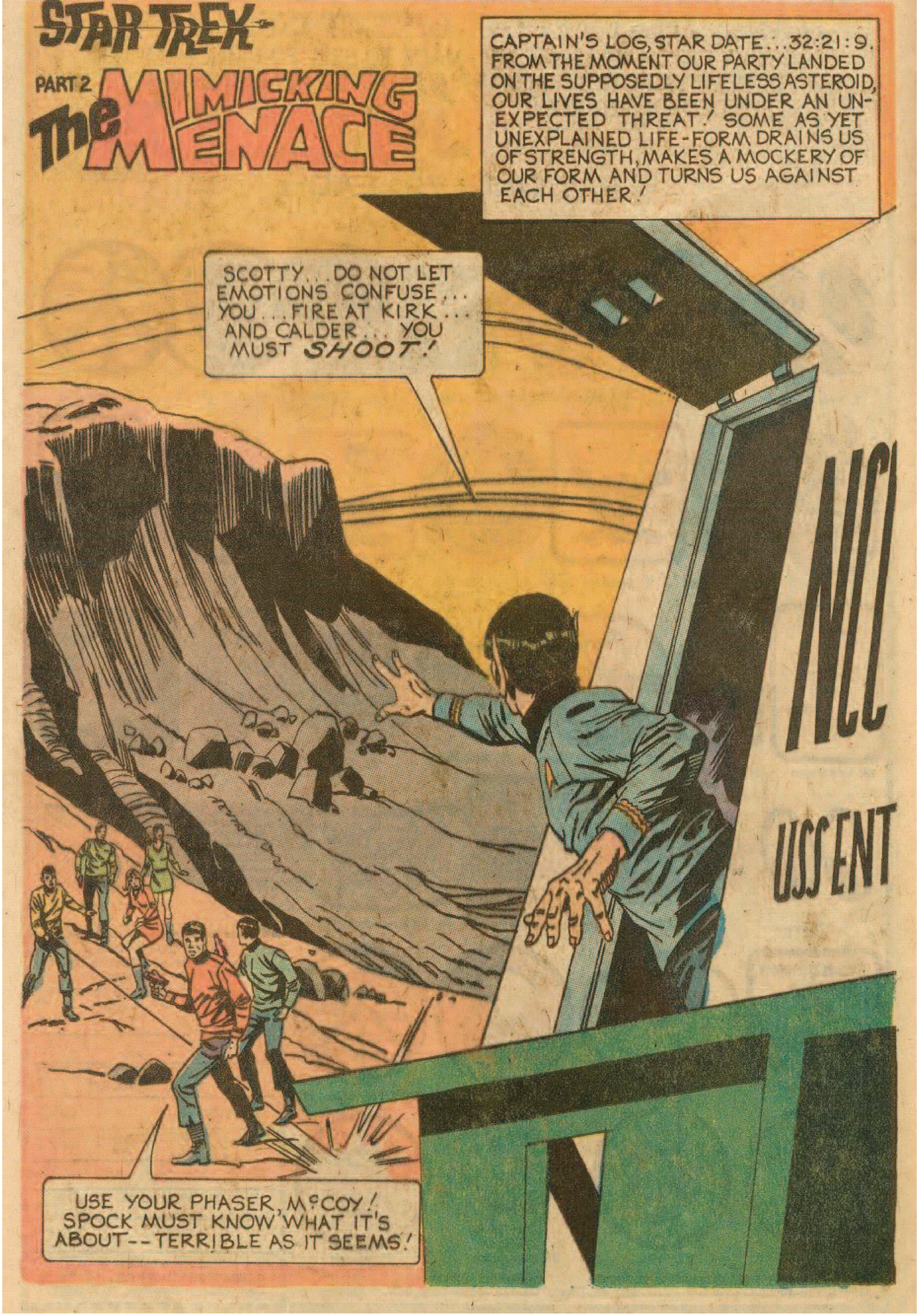

WHAT CAUSED THE DUPLICATION AND OUR LOSS OF SHIP'S POWER?
IT'S RATHER DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN . . . AN UNUSUAL CONCEPT!
FUNNY . . . FEEL DIZZY!
MR. SPOCK, WHERE --
ENERGY DRAIN . . FROM ME . . . FROM ION POWER . . . COMMUNICATORS . . . GOT TO GET AWAY FROM . . . THEM!
Galileo
NCC-1701
NEED TIME . . . . THINK . . . HOW TO . . . . FIGHT --
AT THE SAME INSTANT, TWO FIGURES ARE BEAMED DOWN FROM THE ENTERPRISE . . .

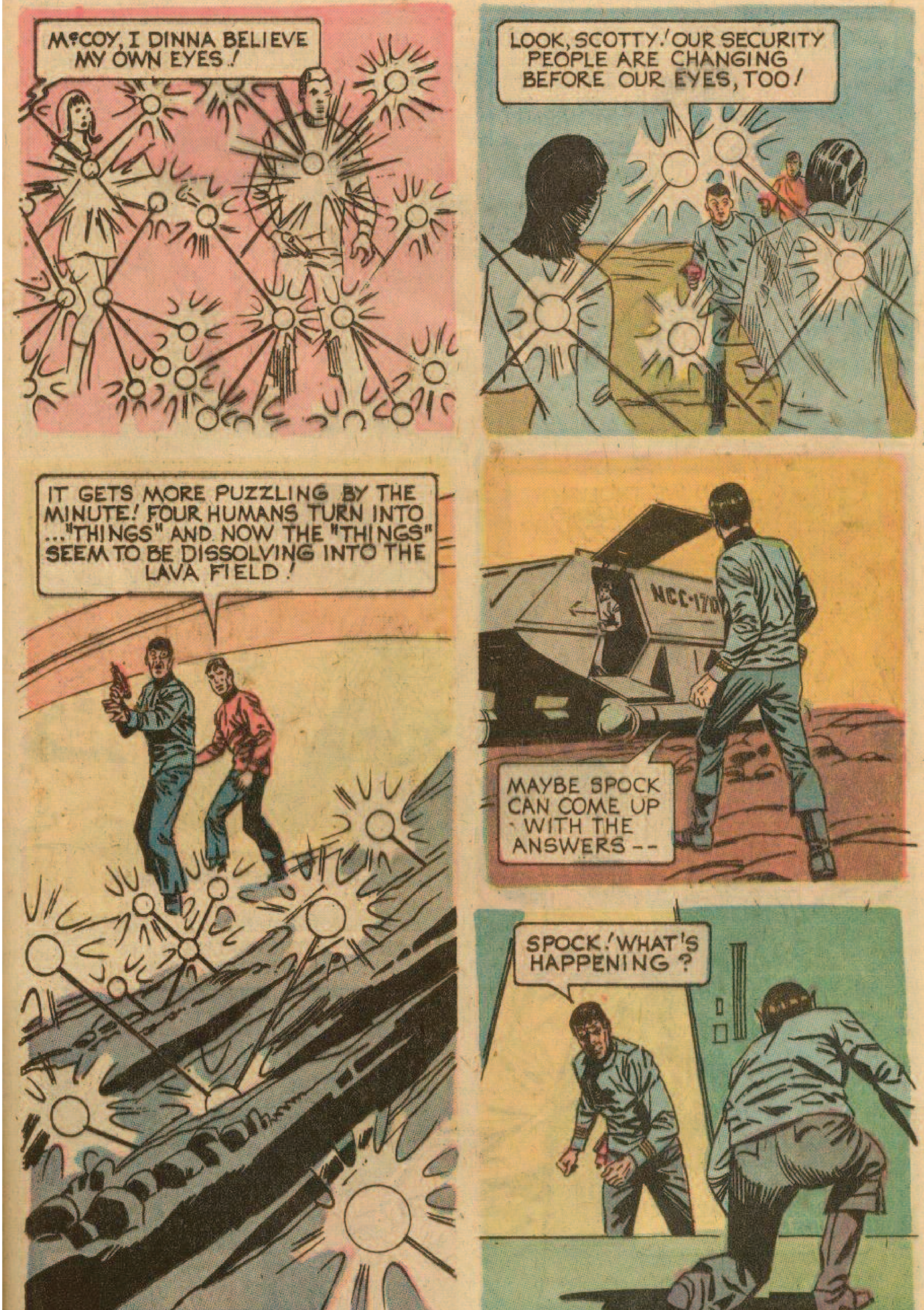

CAPTAIN, GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! WE WERE FEARFUL FOR YOU!
WHERE IS MR. SPOCK?
MAYBE HE'S INSIDE THE GALILEO --
DON'T GO IN THERE!
NCC-1701-1
A PHASER BLAST?
DOCTOR, DRAW YOUR PHASER --
MY PHASER? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES?
THEY'RE FIRING AT US! THEIR PHASERS ARE ON SETTING 1! SET YOURS FOR STUN --
ME, SHOOT AT MY CAPTAIN?

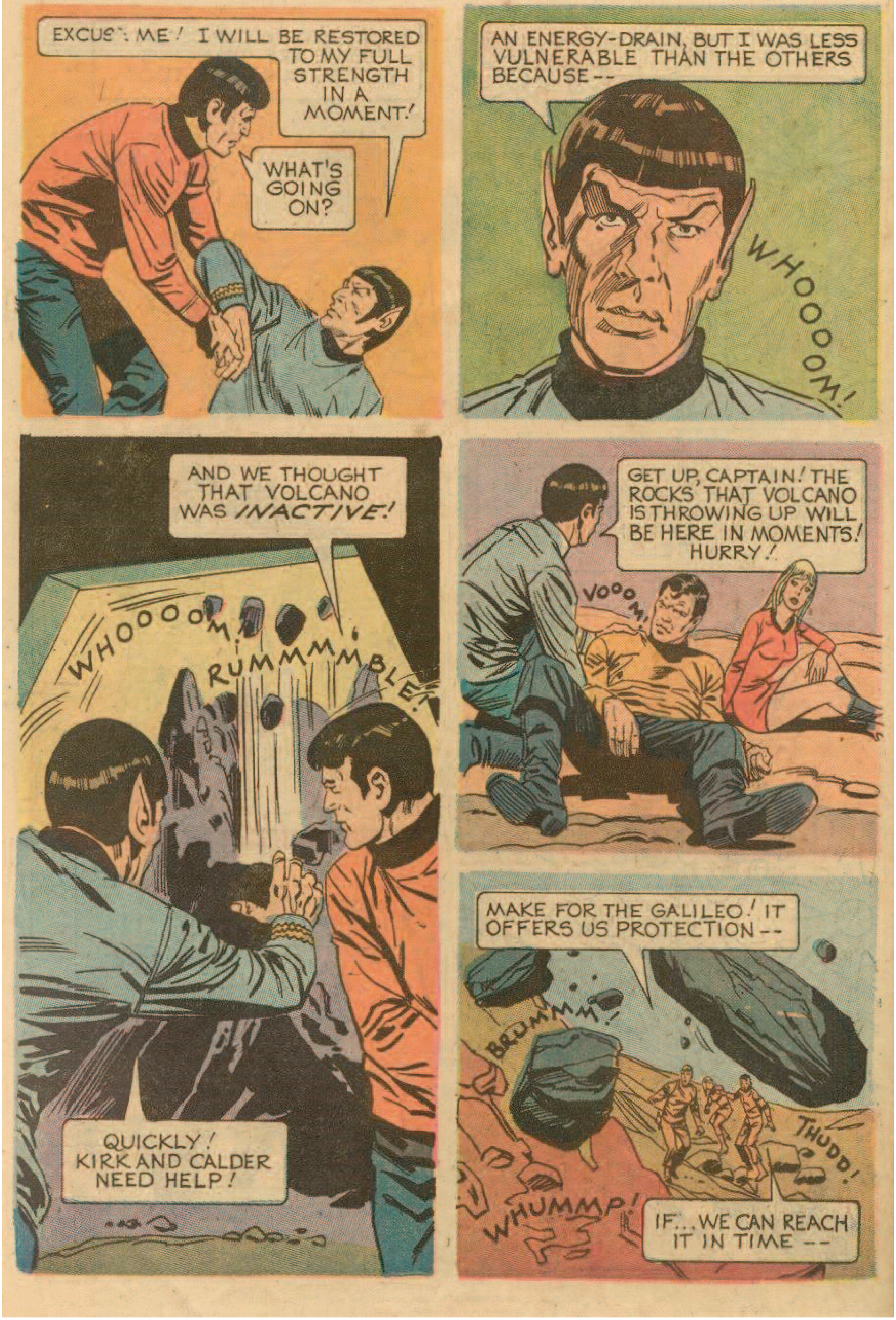
END OF PART I

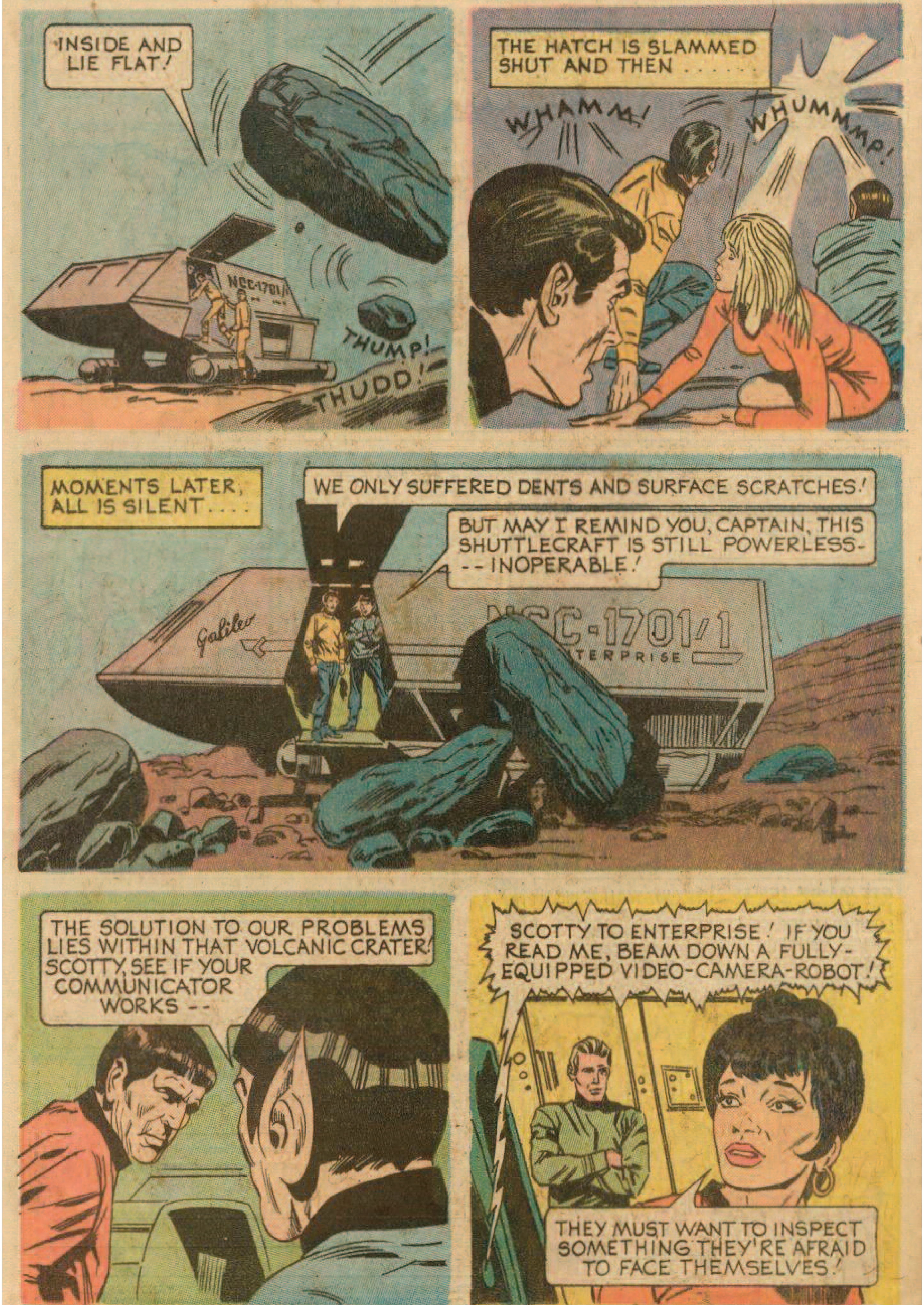
STAR TREK

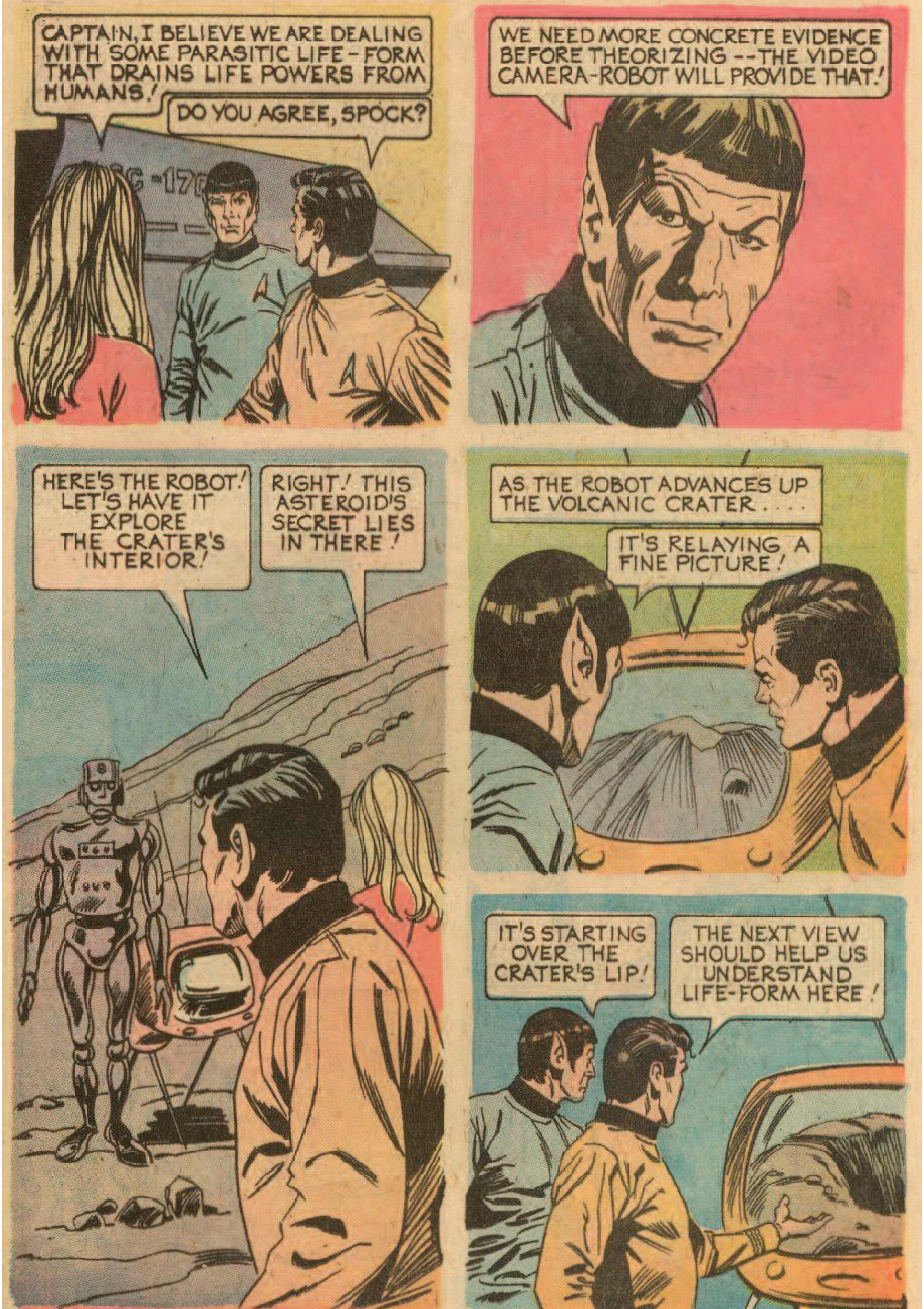
PART 2 The MIMICKING MENACE

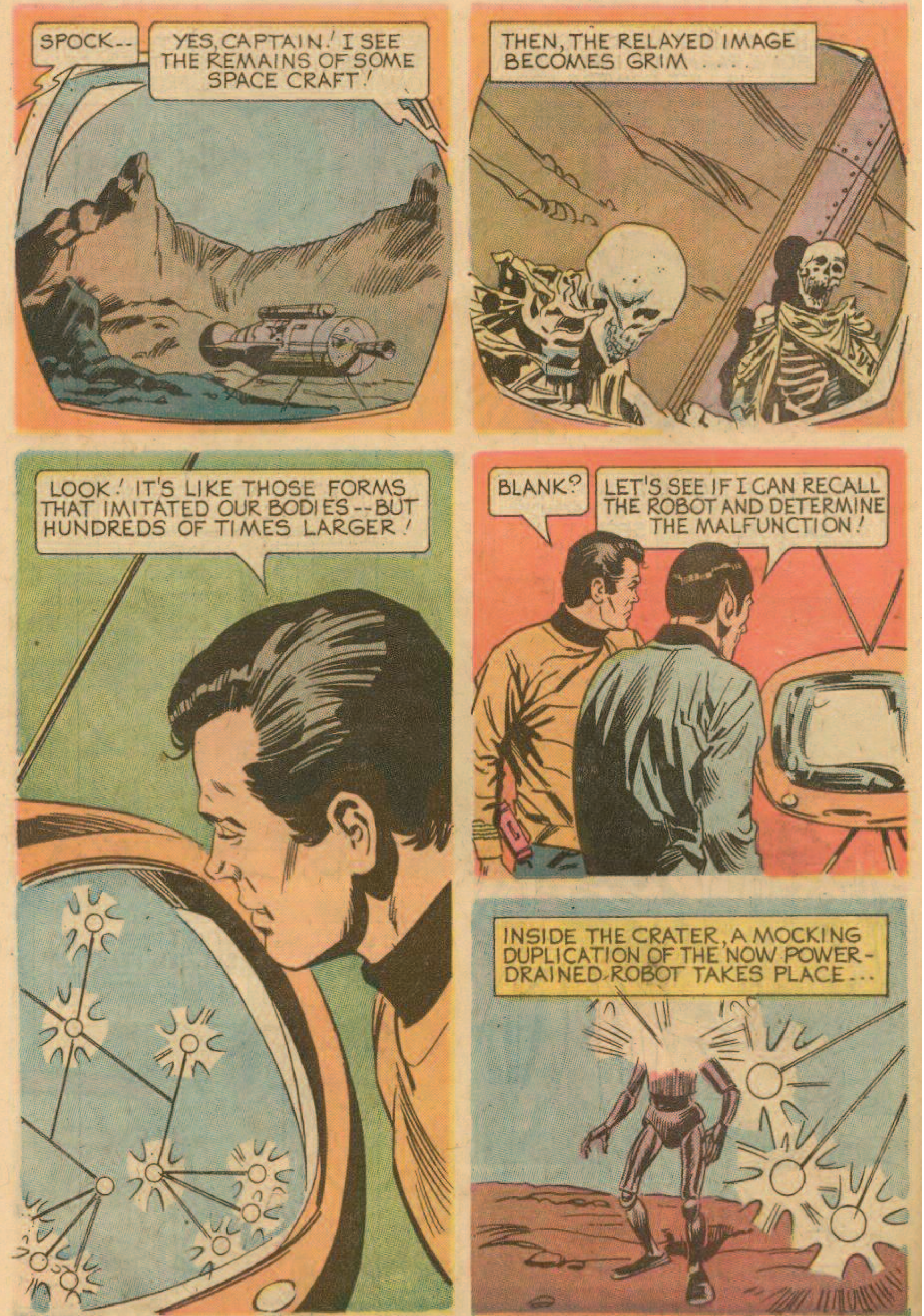

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE...32:21:9. FROM THE MOMENT OUR PARTY LANDED ON THE SUPPOSEDLY LIFELESS ASTEROID, OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN UNDER AN UNEXPECTED THREAT! SOME AS YET UNEXPLAINED LIFE-FORM DRAINS US OF STRENGTH, MAKES A MOCKERY OF OUR FORM AND TURNS US AGAINST EACH OTHER!
SCOTTY... DO NOT LET EMOTIONS CONFUSE... YOU... FIRE AT KIRK... AND CALDER... YOU MUST SHOOT!
NC
USS ENT
USE YOUR PHASER, McCOY! SPOCK MUST KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT--TERRIBLE AS IT SEEMS!

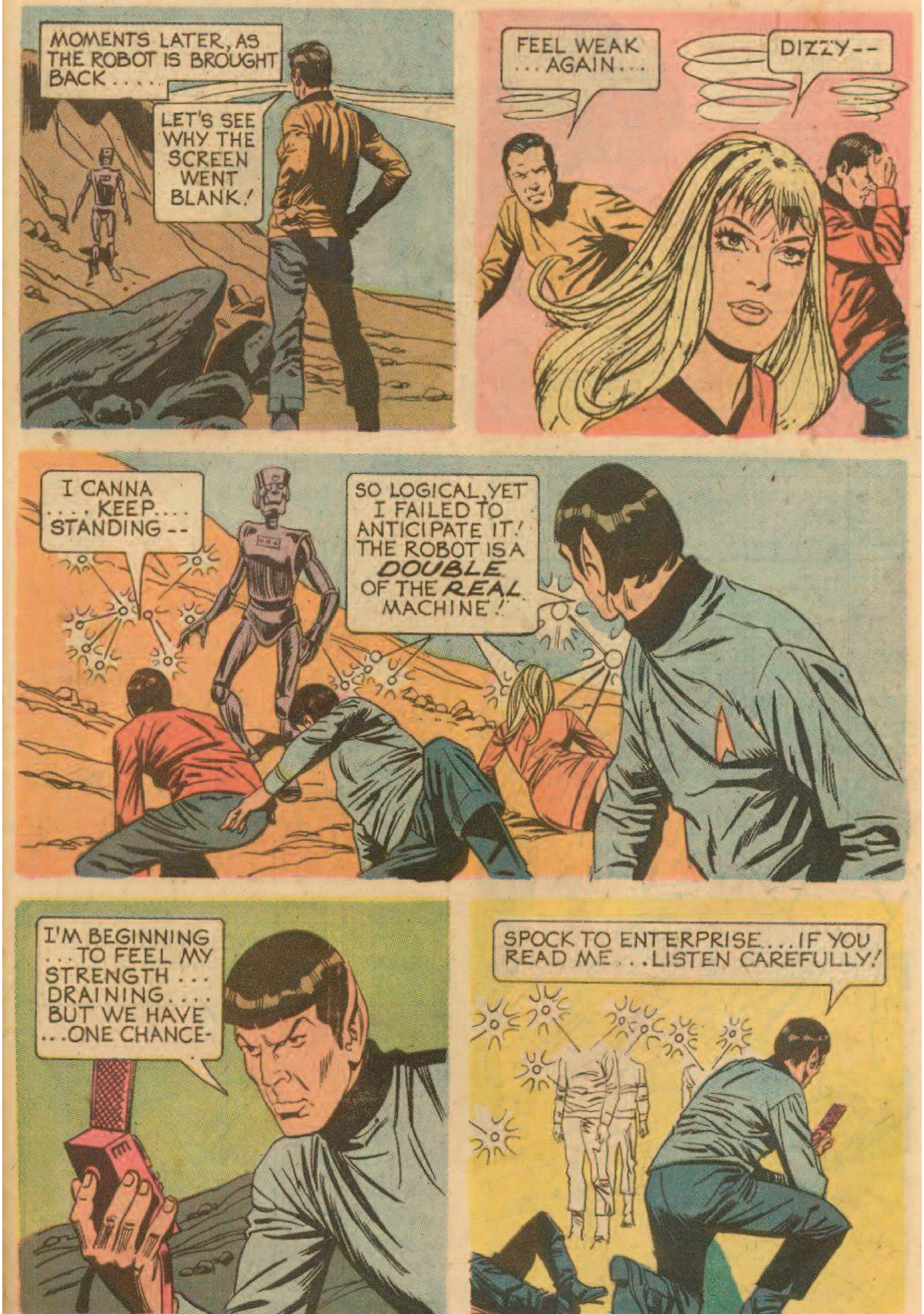

McCOY, I DINNA BELIEVE MY OWN EYES!
LOOK, SCOTTY! OUR SECURITY PEOPLE ARE CHANGING BEFORE OUR EYES, TOO!
IT GETS MORE PUZZLING BY THE MINUTE! FOUR HUMANS TURN INTO ..."THINGS" AND NOW THE "THINGS" SEEM TO BE DISSOLVING INTO THE LAVA FIELD!
NCC-170
MAYBE SPOCK CAN COME UP WITH THE ANSWERS --
SPOCK! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

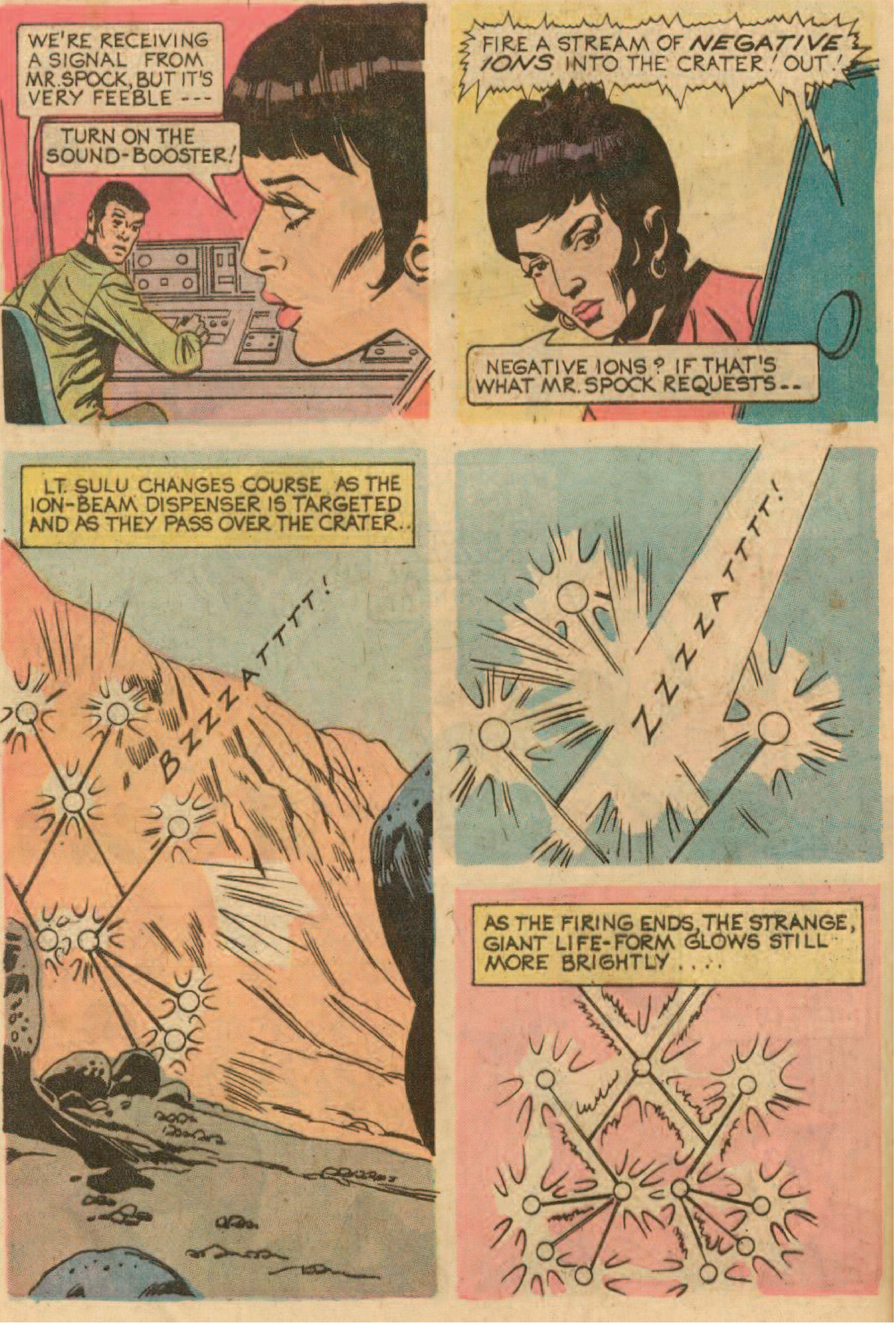

EXCUSE ME! I WILL BE RESTORED TO MY FULL STRENGTH IN A MOMENT!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AN ENERGY-DRAIN, BUT I WAS LESS VULNERABLE THAN THE OTHERS BECAUSE --
WHOOOOM!
AND WE THOUGHT THAT VOLCANO WAS *INACTIVE!*
WHOOOOOM!
RUMMMMBLE!
QUICKLY! KIRK AND CALDER NEED HELP!
GET UP, CAPTAIN! THE ROCKS THAT VOLCANO IS THROWING UP WILL BE HERE IN MOMENTS! HURRY!
VOOOM!
MAKE FOR THE GALILEO! IT OFFERS US PROTECTION --
BRUMMMM!
THUDD!
WHUMMP!
IF... WE CAN REACH IT IN TIME --

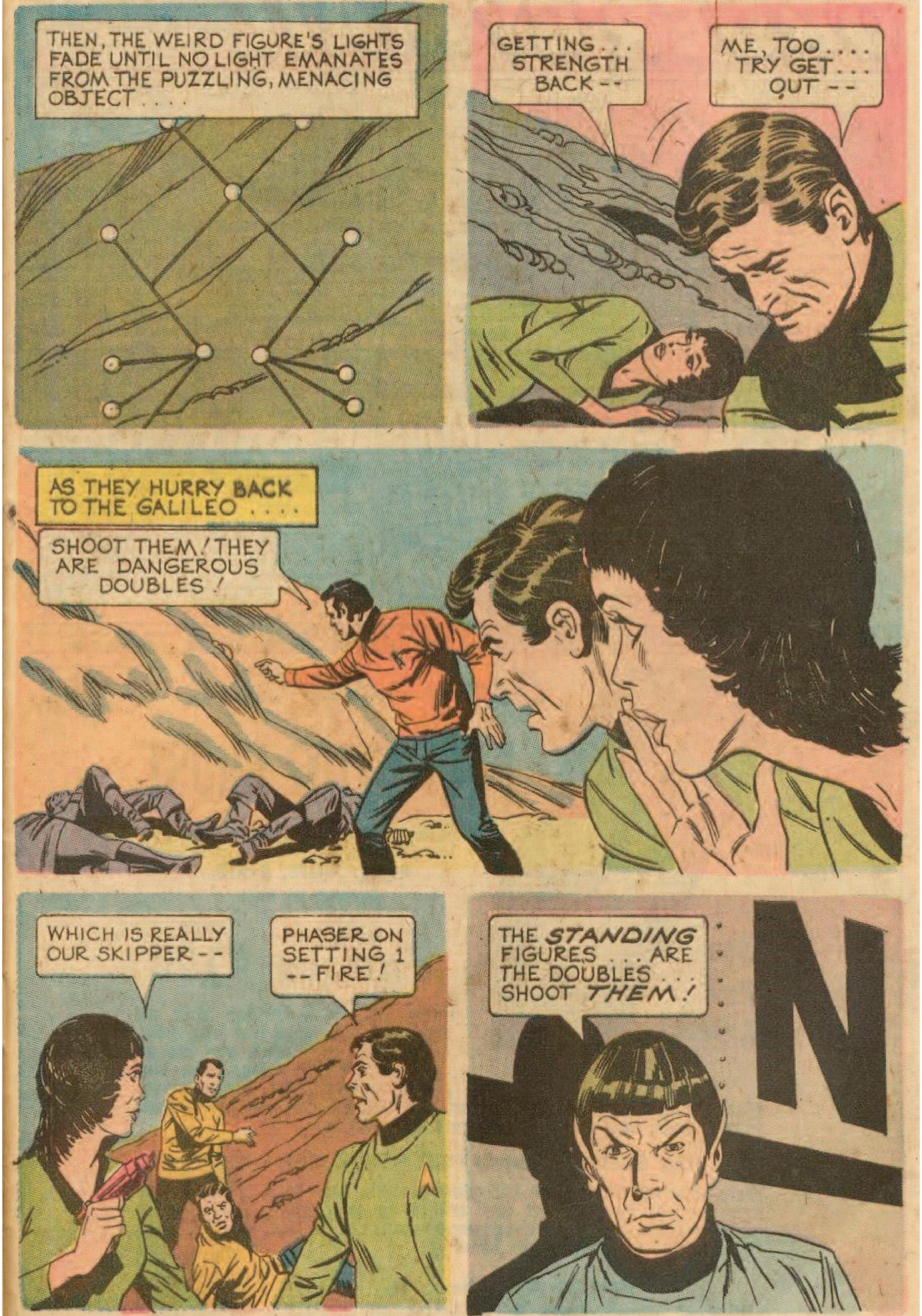

INSIDE AND LIE FLAT!
THUMP!
THUDD!
NCC-1701/1
THE HATCH IS SLAMMED SHUT AND THEN .....
WHAMM!
WHUMMMP!
MOMENTS LATER, ALL IS SILENT....
WE ONLY SUFFERED DENTS AND SURFACE SCRATCHES!
BUT MAY I REMIND YOU, CAPTAIN, THIS SHUTTLECRAFT IS STILL POWERLESS--INOPERABLE!
Galileo
NCC-1701/1
ENTERPRISE
THE SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEMS LIES WITHIN THAT VOLCANIC CRATER! SCOTTY, SEE IF YOUR COMMUNICATOR WORKS --
SCOTTY TO ENTERPRISE! IF YOU READ ME, BEAM DOWN A FULLY-EQUIPPED VIDEO-CAMERA-ROBOT!
THEY MUST WANT TO INSPECT SOMETHING THEY'RE AFRAID TO FACE THEMSELVES!

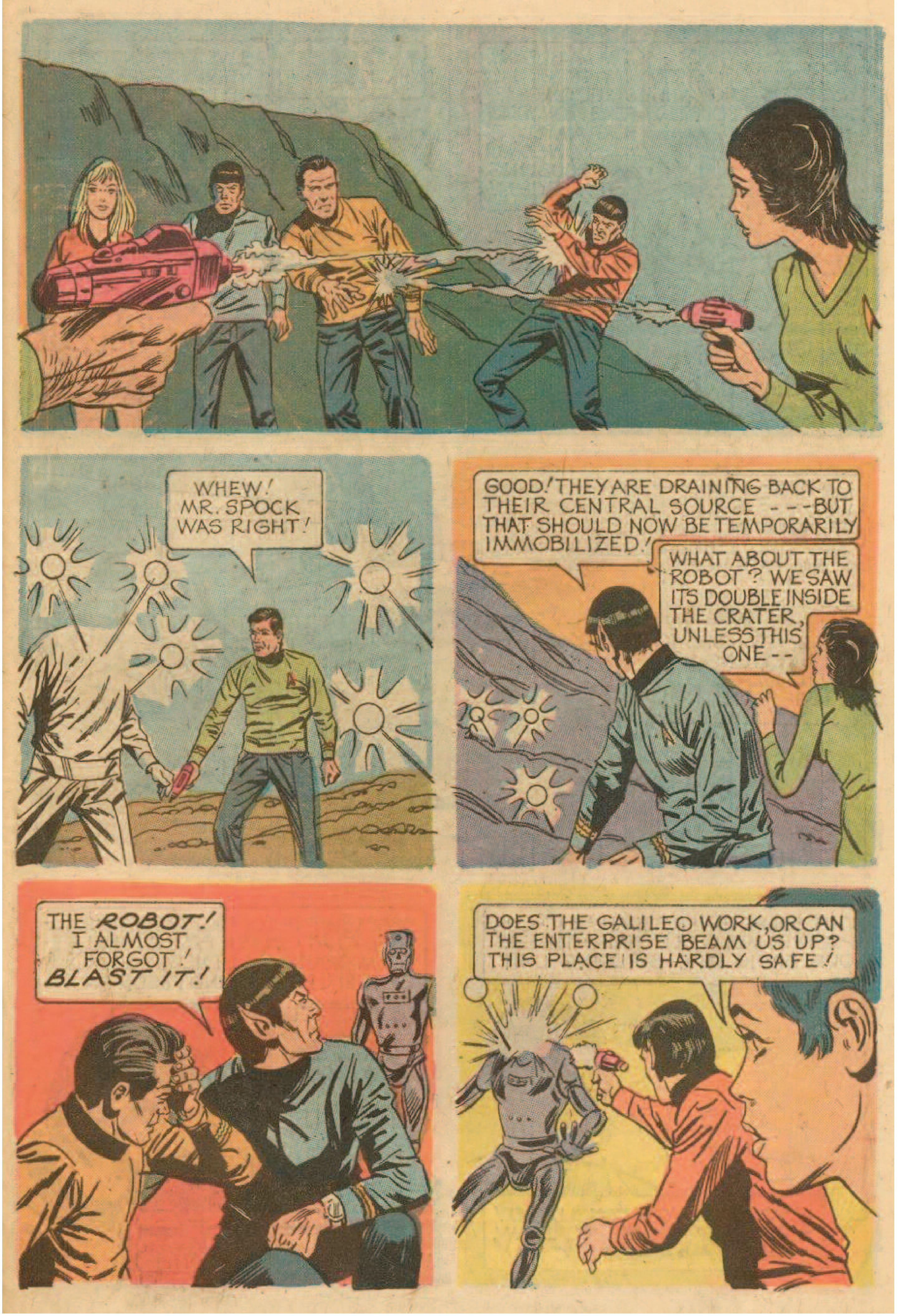

CAPTAIN, I BELIEVE WE ARE DEALING WITH SOME PARASITIC LIFE-FORM THAT DRAINS LIFE POWERS FROM HUMANS!
DO YOU AGREE, SPOCK?
WE NEED MORE CONCRETE EVIDENCE BEFORE THEORIZING --THE VIDEO CAMERA-ROBOT WILL PROVIDE THAT!
HERE'S THE ROBOT! LET'S HAVE IT EXPLORE THE CRATER'S INTERIOR!
RIGHT! THIS ASTEROID'S SECRET LIES IN THERE!
AS THE ROBOT ADVANCES UP THE VOLCANIC CRATER....
IT'S RELAYING A FINE PICTURE!
IT'S STARTING OVER THE CRATER'S LIP!
THE NEXT VIEW SHOULD HELP US UNDERSTAND LIFE-FORM HERE!

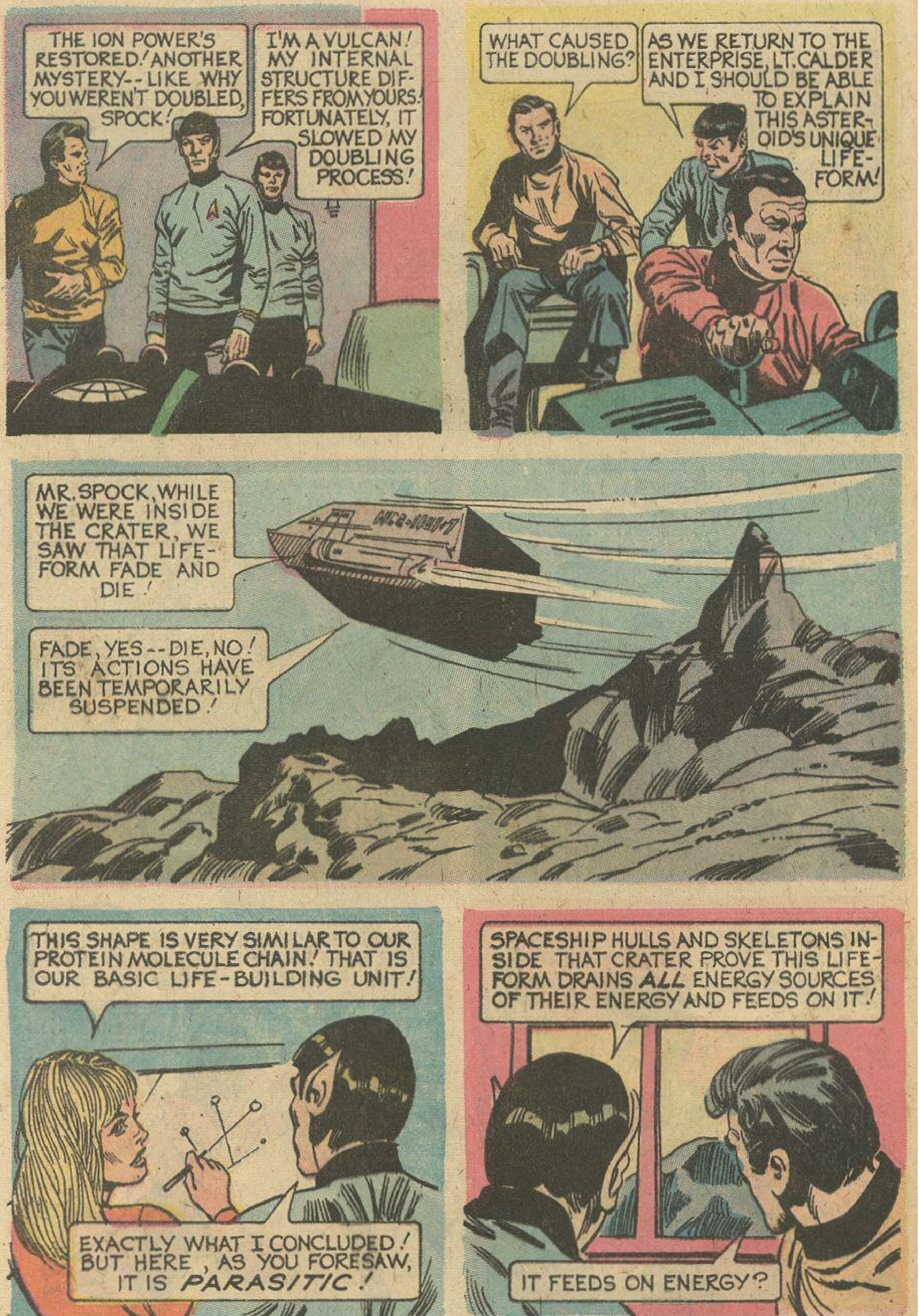

SPOCK--
YES, CAPTAIN! I SEE THE REMAINS OF SOME SPACE CRAFT!
THEN, THE RELAYED IMAGE BECOMES GRIM . . . .
LOOK! IT'S LIKE THOSE FORMS THAT IMITATED OUR BODIES--BUT HUNDREDS OF TIMES LARGER!
BLANK?
LET'S SEE IF I CAN RECALL THE ROBOT AND DETERMINE THE MALFUNCTION!
INSIDE THE CRATER, A MOCKING DUPLICATION OF THE NOW POWER-DRAINED ROBOT TAKES PLACE...

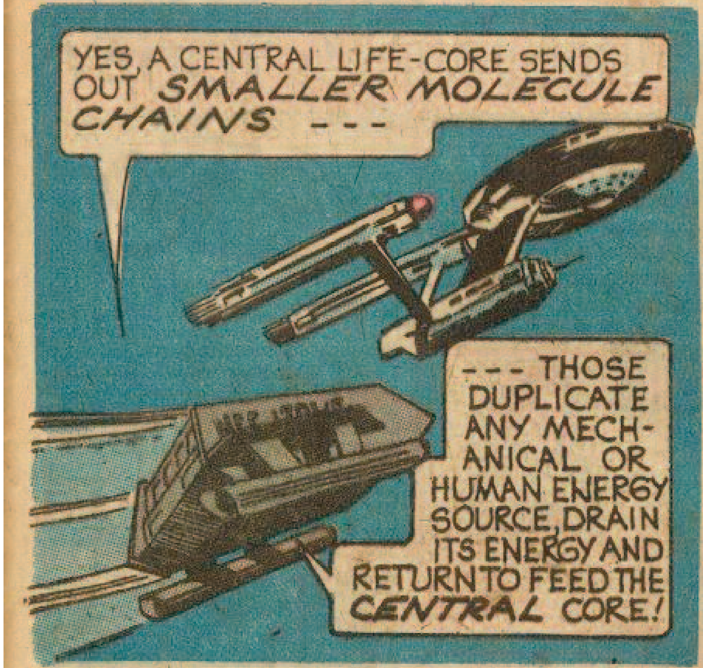

MOMENTS LATER, AS THE ROBOT IS BROUGHT BACK.....
LET'S SEE WHY THE SCREEN WENT BLANK!
FEEL WEAK ...AGAIN...
DIZZY--
I CANNA ....KEEP.... STANDING--
SO LOGICAL, YET I FAILED TO ANTICIPATE IT! THE ROBOT IS A *DOUBLE* OF THE *REAL* MACHINE!
I'M BEGINNING ...TO FEEL MY STRENGTH ... DRAINING.... BUT WE HAVE ...ONE CHANCE-
SPOCK TO ENTERPRISE....IF YOU READ ME...LISTEN CAREFULLY!

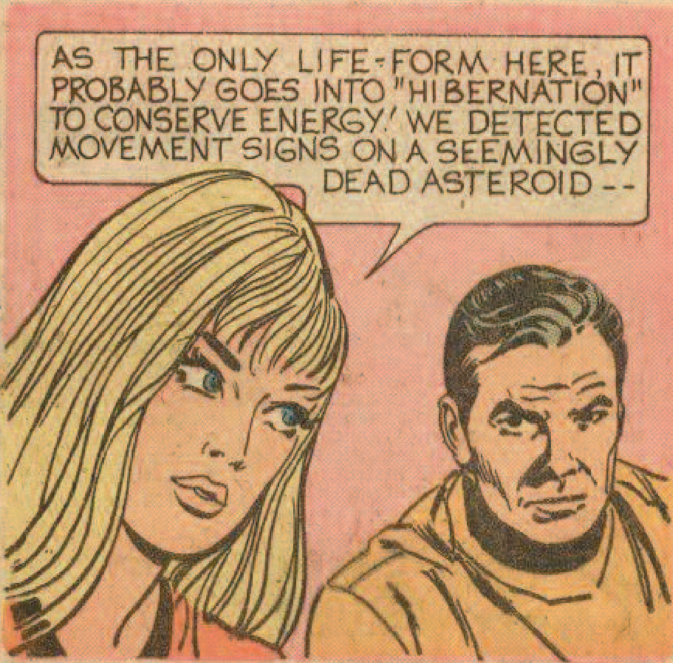

WE'RE RECEIVING A SIGNAL FROM MR. SPOCK, BUT IT'S VERY FEEBLE ---
TURN ON THE SOUND-BOOSTER!
FIRE A STREAM OF *NEGATIVE IONS* INTO THE CRATER! OUT!
NEGATIVE IONS? IF THAT'S WHAT MR. SPOCK REQUESTS --
LT. SULU CHANGES COURSE AS THE ION-BEAM DISPENSER IS TARGETED AND AS THEY PASS OVER THE CRATER..
BZZZATTTTT!
ZZZZATTTTT!
AS THE FIRING ENDS, THE STRANGE, GIANT LIFE-FORM GLOWS STILL MORE BRIGHTLY . . . .

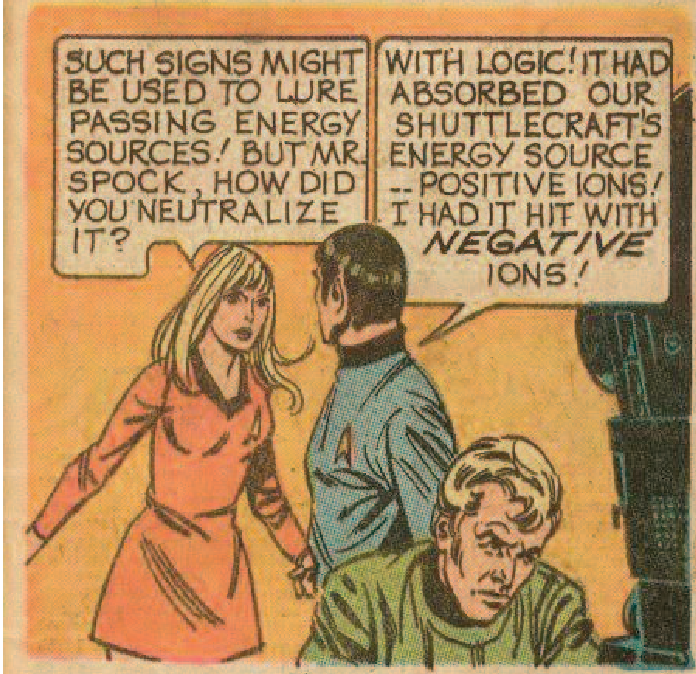

THEN, THE WEIRD FIGURE'S LIGHTS FADE UNTIL NO LIGHT EMANATES FROM THE PUZZLING, MENACING OBJECT....
GETTING... STRENGTH BACK--
ME, TOO.... TRY GET... OUT--
AS THEY HURRY BACK TO THE GALILEO....
SHOOT THEM! THEY ARE DANGEROUS DOUBLES!
WHICH IS REALLY OUR SKIPPER--
PHASER ON SETTING 1 --FIRE!
THE STANDING FIGURES... ARE THE DOUBLES... SHOOT THEM!
N

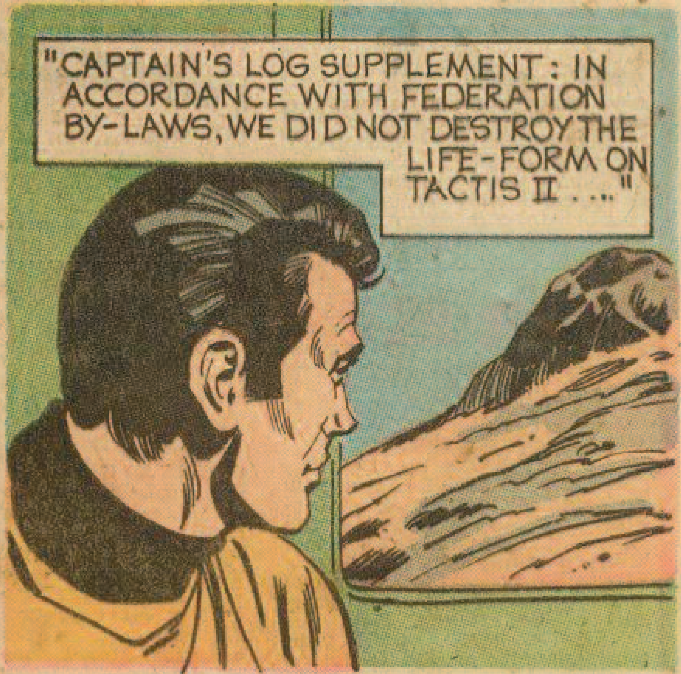

WHEW! MR. SPOCK WAS RIGHT!
GOOD! THEY ARE DRAINING BACK TO THEIR CENTRAL SOURCE --- BUT THAT SHOULD NOW BE TEMPORARILY IMMOBILIZED!
WHAT ABOUT THE ROBOT? WE SAW ITS DOUBLE INSIDE THE CRATER, UNLESS THIS ONE --
THE *ROBOT!* I ALMOST FORGOT! *BLAST IT!*
DOES THE GALILEO WORK, OR CAN THE ENTERPRISE BEAM US UP? THIS PLACE IS HARDLY SAFE!

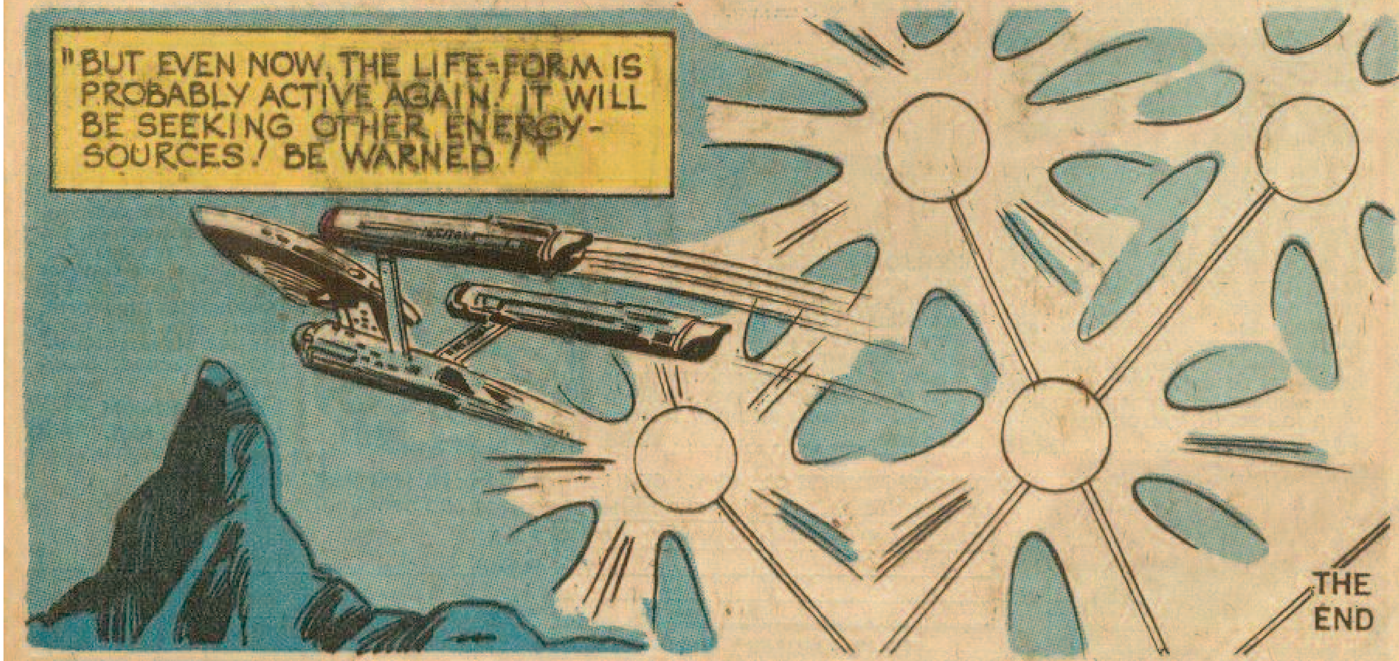

THE ION POWER'S RESTORED! ANOTHER MYSTERY-- LIKE WHY YOU WEREN'T DOUBLED, SPOCK!
I'M A VULCAN! MY INTERNAL STRUCTURE DIFFERS FROM YOURS! FORTUNATELY, IT SLOWED MY DOUBLING PROCESS!
WHAT CAUSED THE DOUBLING?
AS WE RETURN TO THE ENTERPRISE, LT. CALDER AND I SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THIS ASTEROID'S UNIQUE LIFE-FORM!
MR. SPOCK, WHILE WE WERE INSIDE THE CRATER, WE SAW THAT LIFE-FORM FADE AND DIE!
FADE, YES--DIE, NO! ITS ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED!
THIS SHAPE IS VERY SIMILAR TO OUR PROTEIN MOLECULE CHAIN! THAT IS OUR BASIC LIFE-BUILDING UNIT!
EXACTLY WHAT I CONCLUDED! BUT HERE, AS YOU FORESAW, IT IS *PARASITIC*!
SPACESHIP HULLS AND SKELETONS INSIDE THAT CRATER PROVE THIS LIFE-FORM DRAINS ***ALL*** ENERGY SOURCES OF THEIR ENERGY AND FEEDS ON IT!
IT FEEDS ON ENERGY?

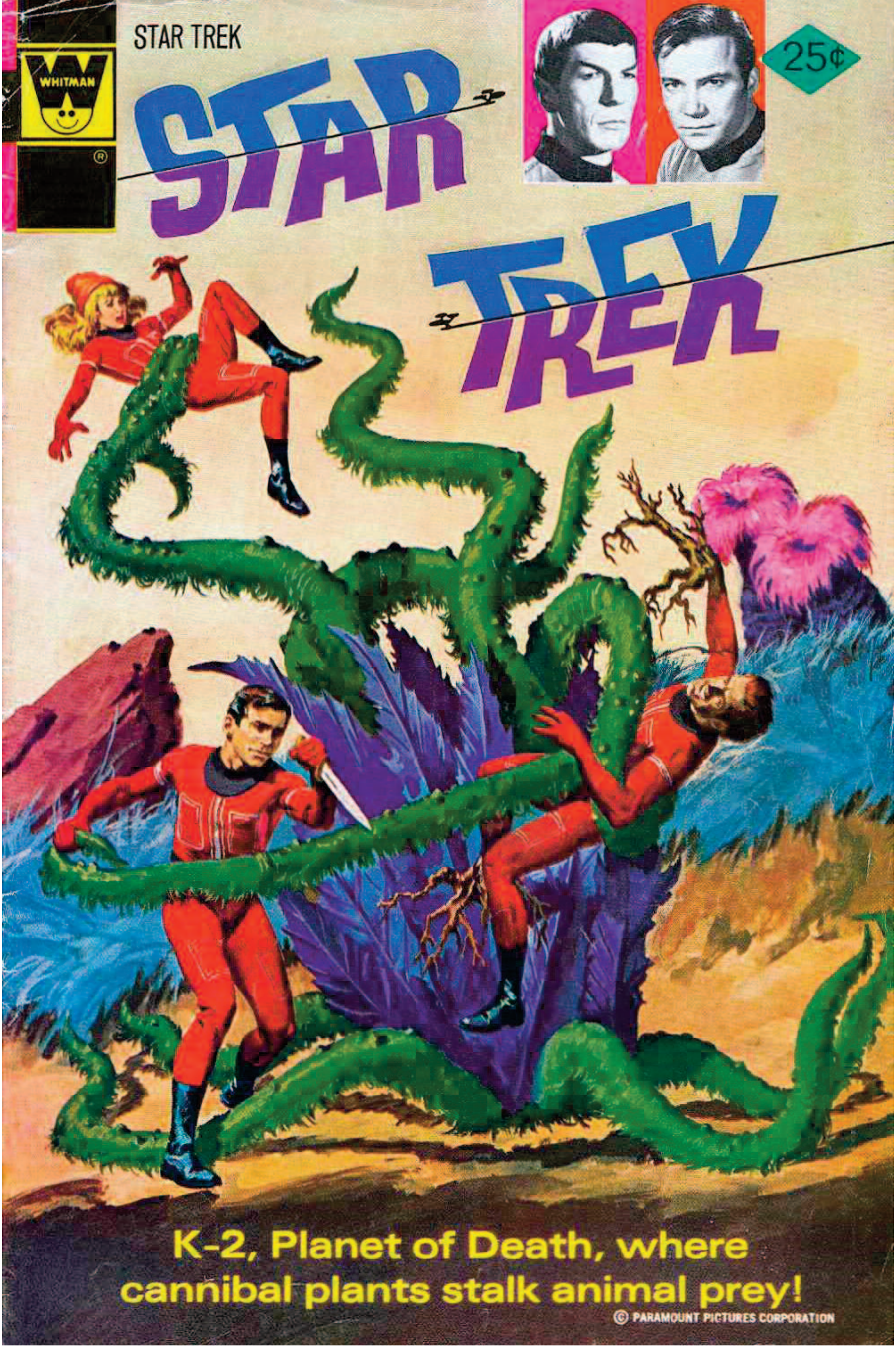

YES, A CENTRAL LIFE-CORE SENDS OUT *SMALLER MOLECULE CHAINS* ---
--- THOSE DUPLICATE ANY MECHANICAL OR HUMAN ENERGY SOURCE, DRAIN ITS ENERGY AND RETURN TO FEED THE *CENTRAL* CORE!


AS THE ONLY LIFE-FORM HERE, IT PROBABLY GOES INTO "HIBERNATION" TO CONSERVE ENERGY! WE DETECTED MOVEMENT SIGNS ON A SEEMINGLY DEAD ASTEROID --


SUCH SIGNS MIGHT BE USED TO LURE PASSING ENERGY SOURCES! BUT MR. SPOCK, HOW DID YOU NEUTRALIZE IT?
WITH LOGIC! IT HAD ABSORBED OUR SHUTTLECRAFT'S ENERGY SOURCE -- POSITIVE IONS! I HAD IT HIT WITH *NEGATIVE* IONS!


"CAPTAIN'S LOG SUPPLEMENT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERATION BY-LAWS, WE DID NOT DESTROY THE LIFE-FORM ON TACTIS II ...."


"BUT EVEN NOW, THE LIFE-FORM IS PROBABLY ACTIVE AGAIN! IT WILL BE SEEKING OTHER ENERGY-SOURCES! BE WARNED!"
THE END



WHITMAN
STAR TREK
STAR TREK
25¢
K-2, Planet of Death, where cannibal plants stalk animal prey!
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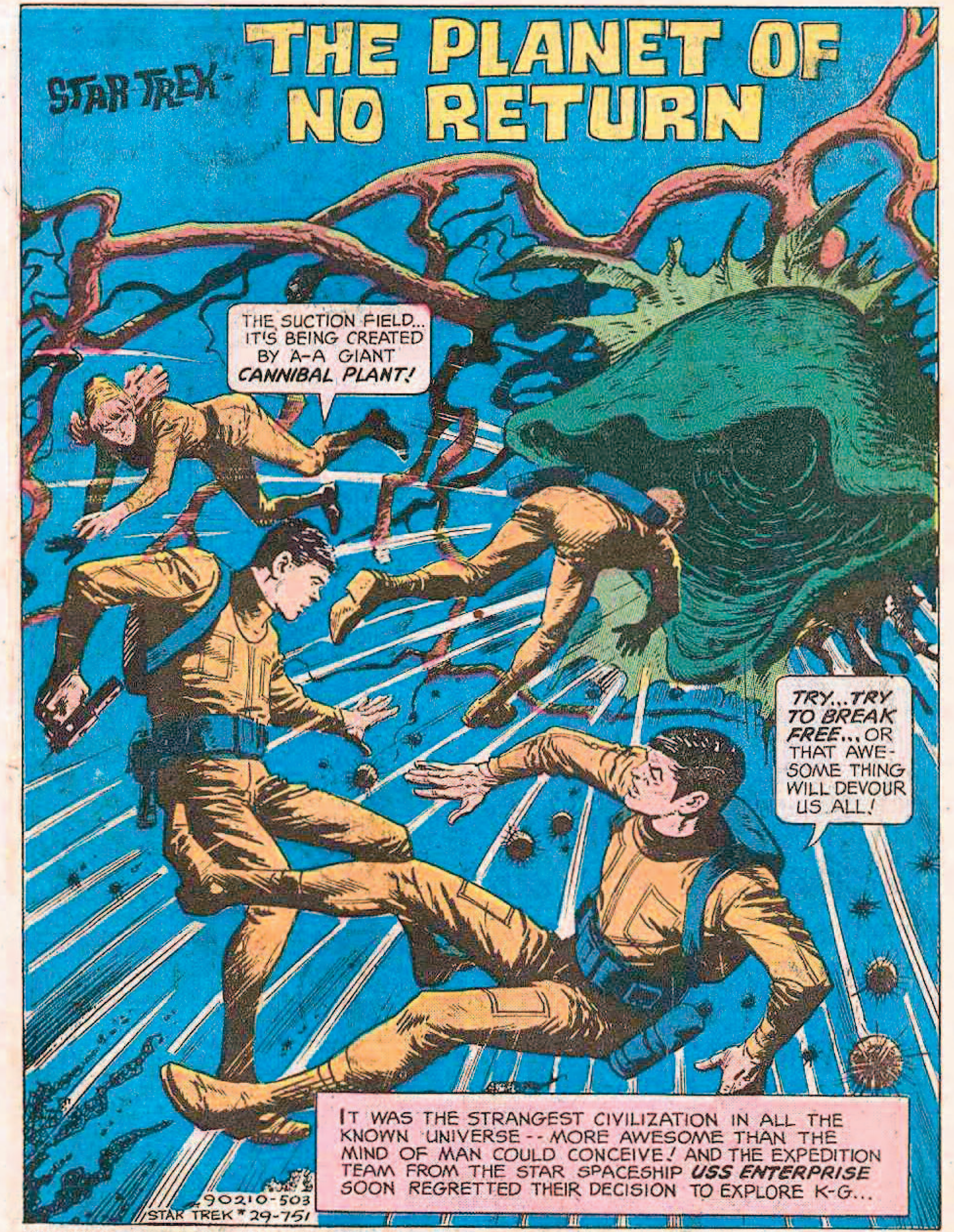
STAR TREK
THE PLANET OF NO RETURN
THE SUCTION FIELD... IT'S BEING CREATED BY A-A GIANT CANNIBAL PLANT!
TRY...TRY TO BREAK FREE...OR THAT AWESOME THING WILL DEVOUR US ALL!
IT WAS THE STRANGEST CIVILIZATION IN ALL THE KNOWN UNIVERSE--MORE AWESOME THAN THE MIND OF MAN COULD CONCEIVE! AND THE EXPEDITION TEAM FROM THE STAR SPACESHIP USS ENTERPRISE SOON REGRETTED THEIR DECISION TO EXPLORE K-G...
90210-503
STAR TREK #29-751

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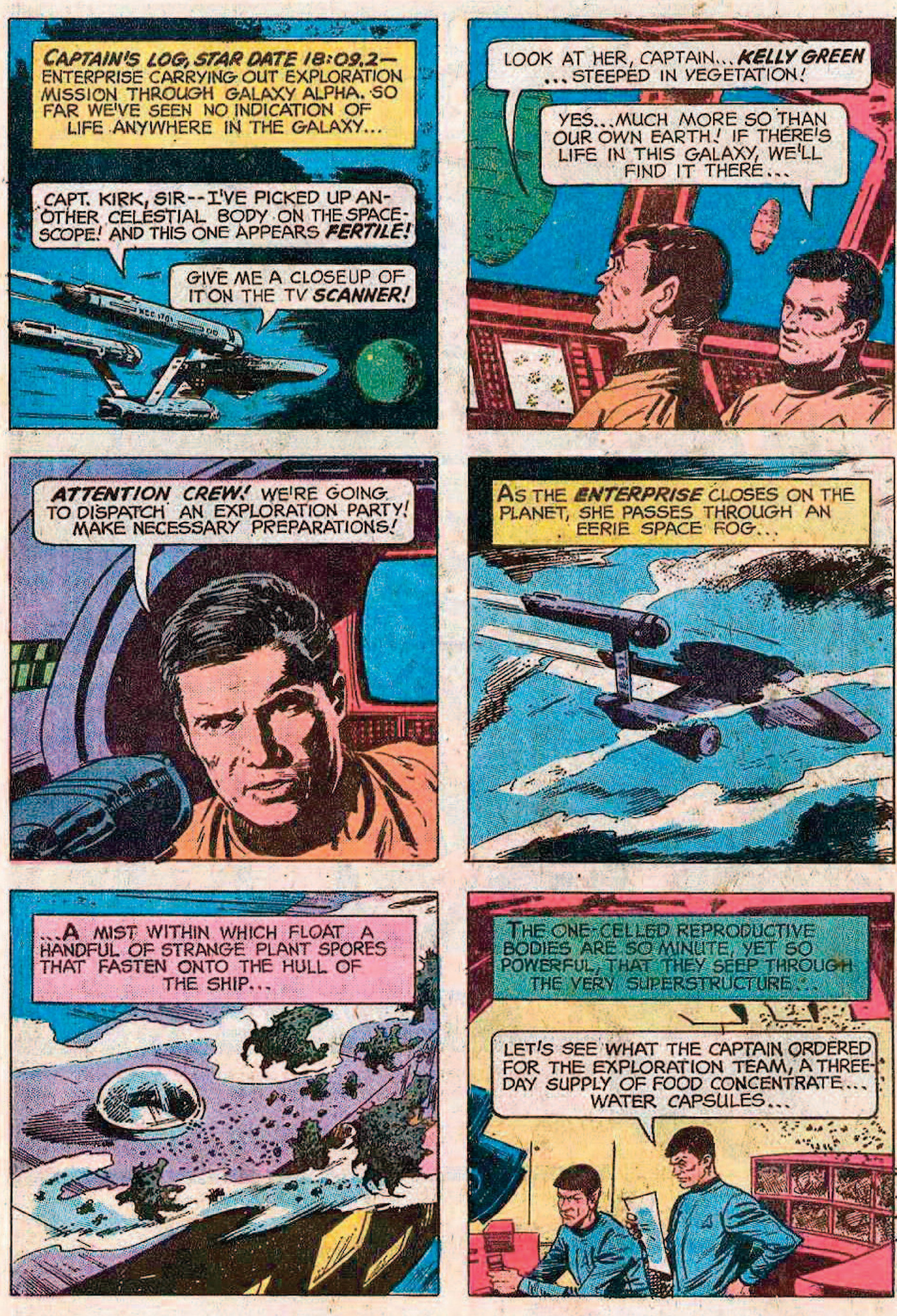
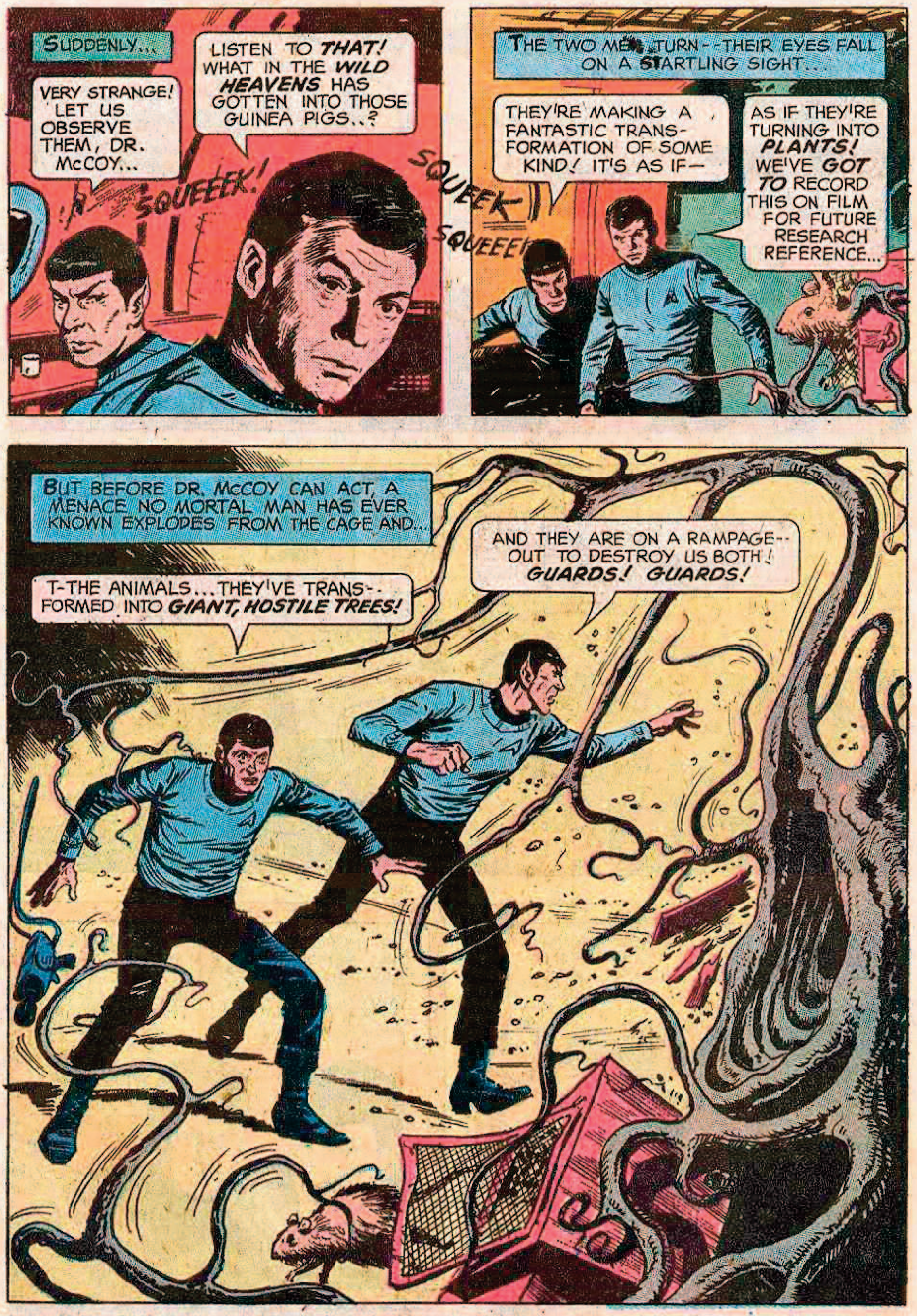
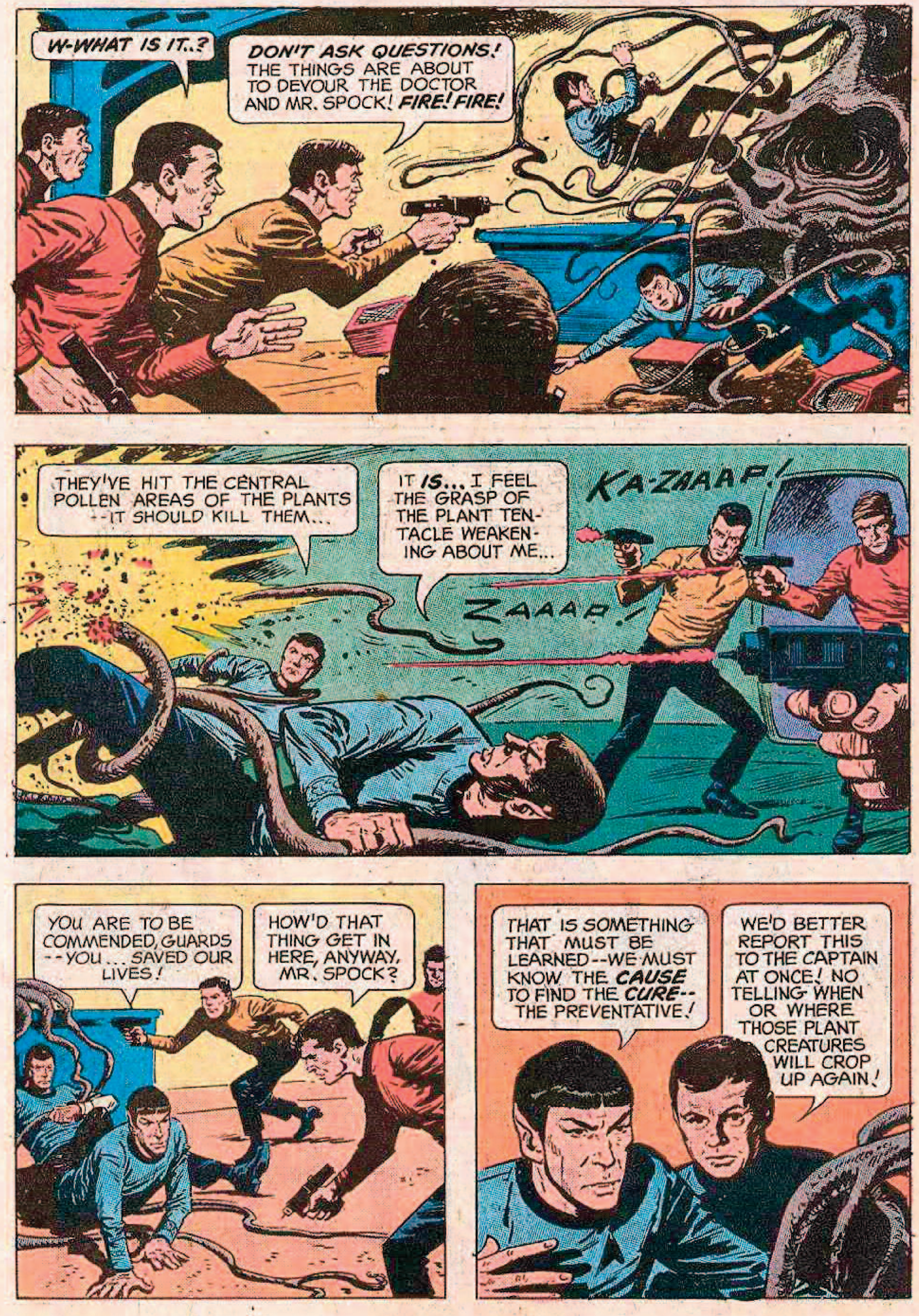
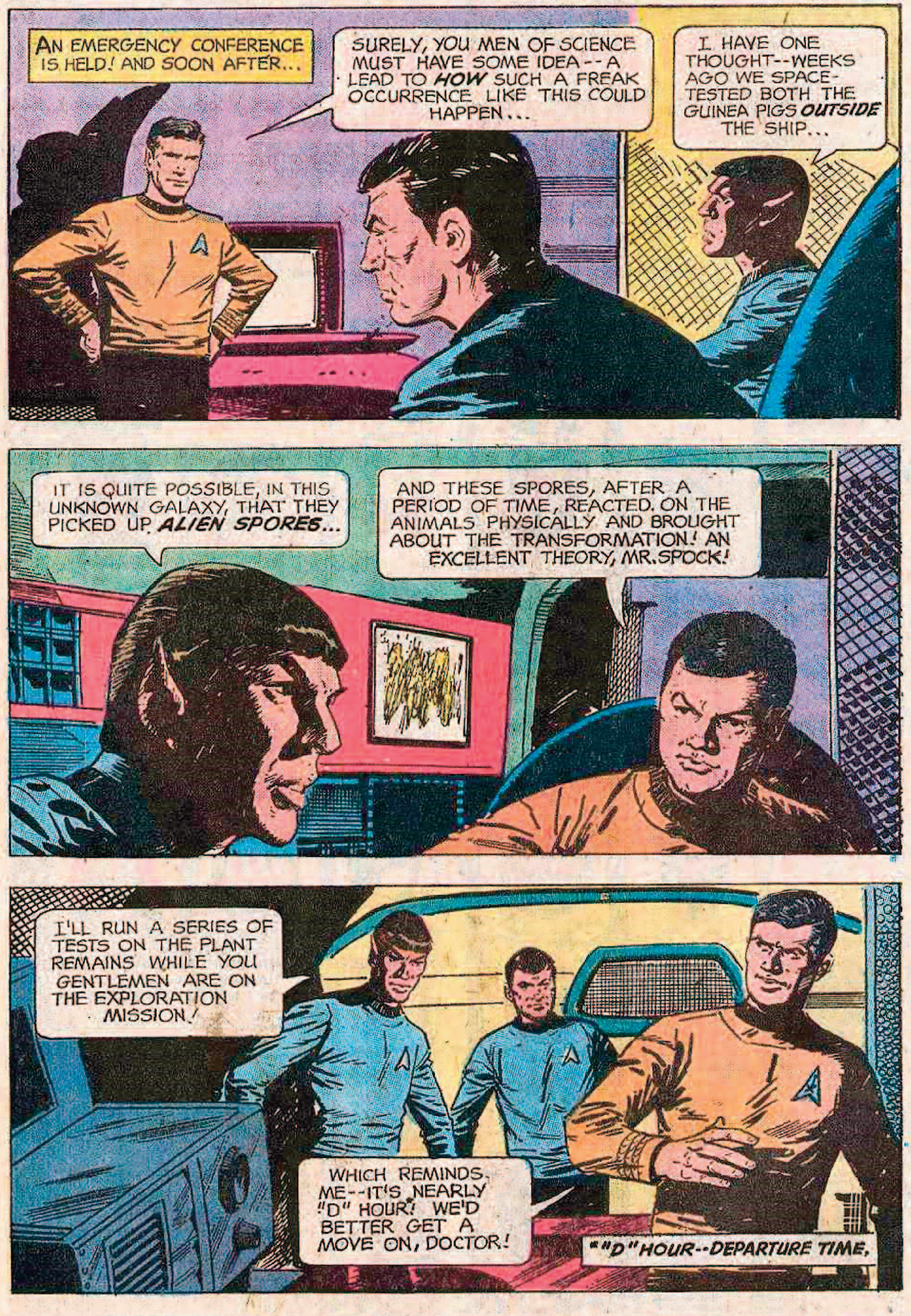
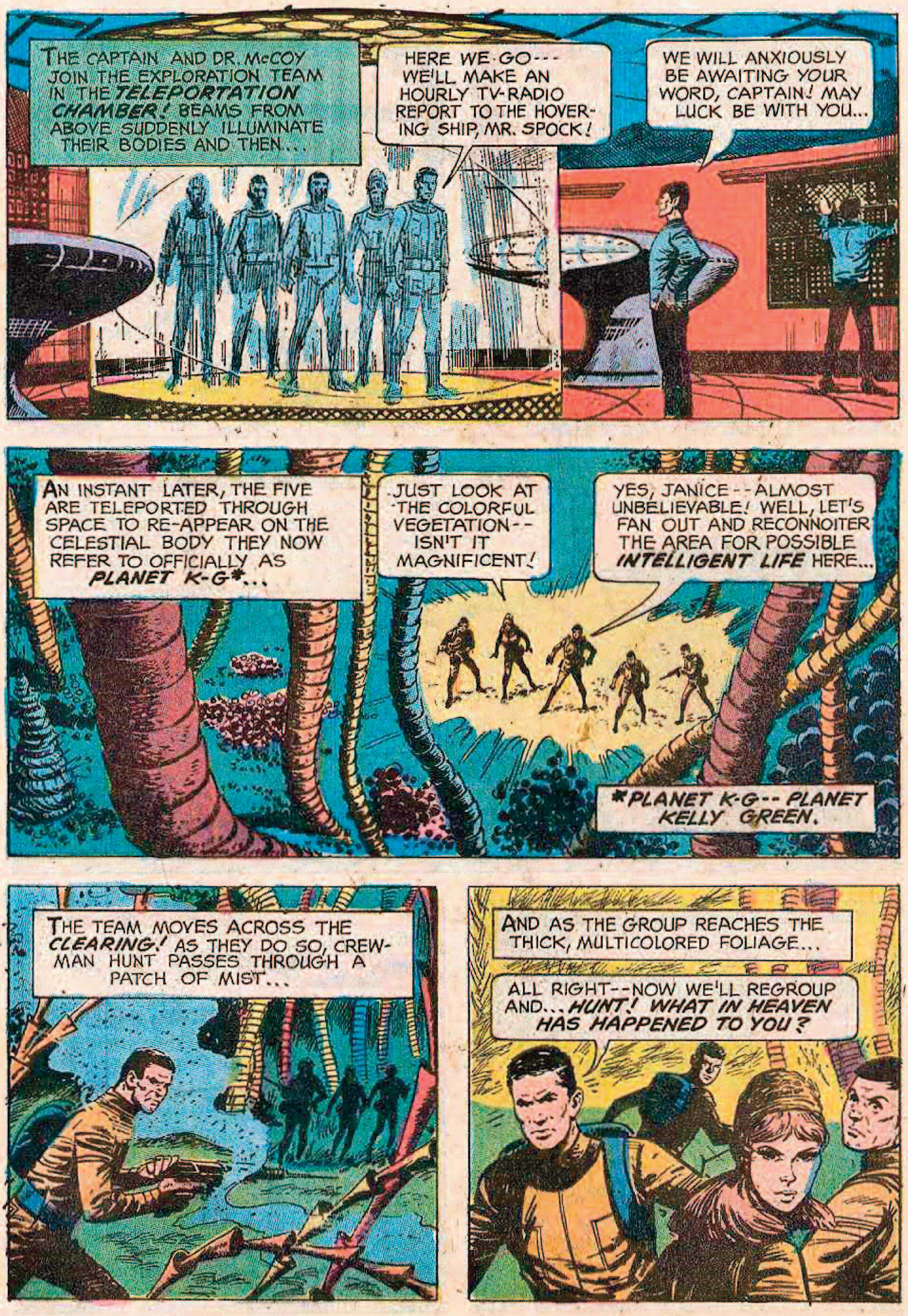
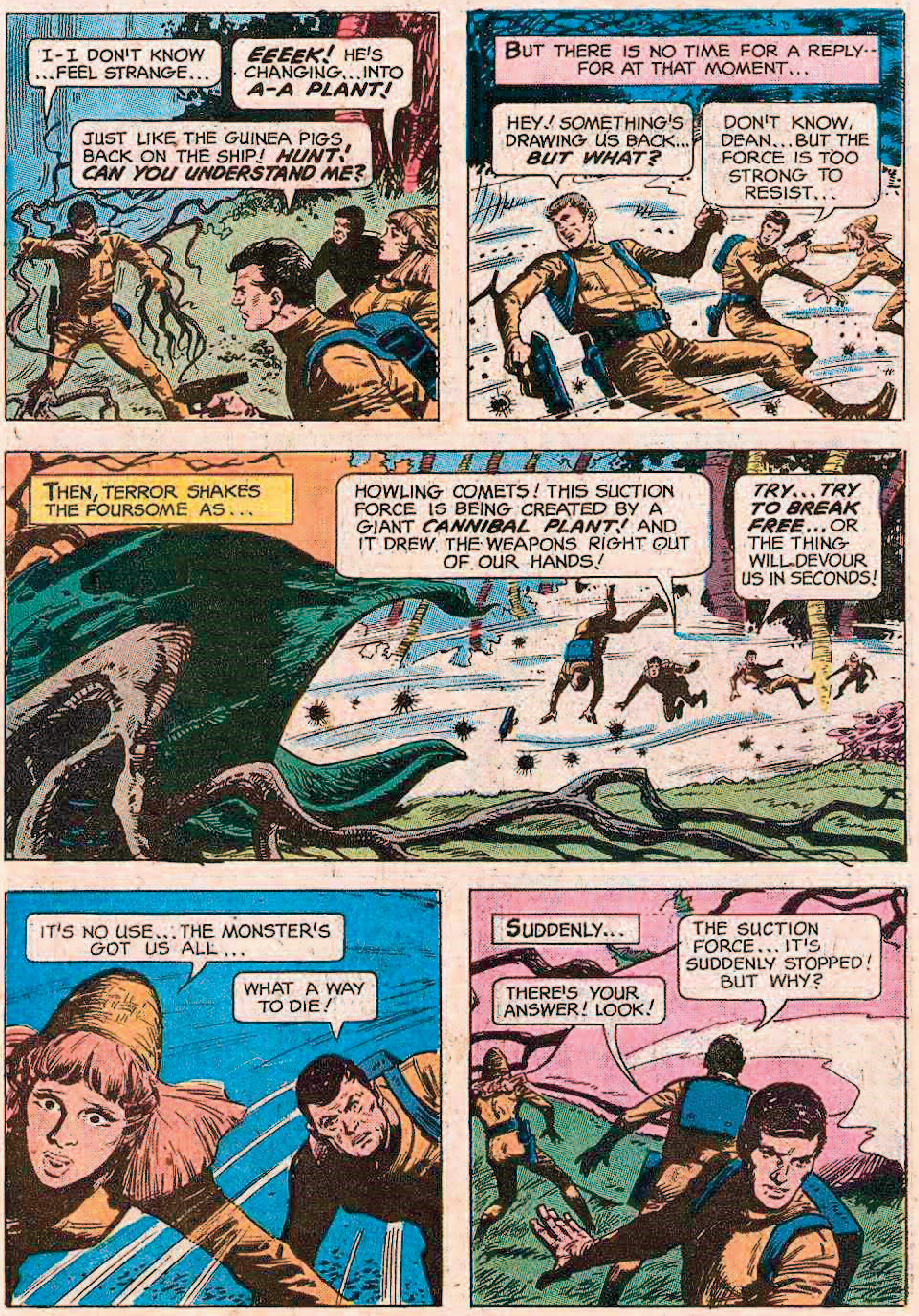

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 18:09.2—ENTERPRISE CARRYING OUT EXPLORATION MISSION THROUGH GALAXY ALPHA. SO FAR WE'VE SEEN NO INDICATION OF LIFE ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY...
CAPT. KIRK, SIR--I'VE PICKED UP ANOTHER CELESTIAL BODY ON THE SPACESCOPE! AND THIS ONE APPEARS FERTILE!
GIVE ME A CLOSEUP OF IT ON THE TV SCANNER!
NCC 1701
LOOK AT HER, CAPTAIN... KELLY GREEN ... STEEPED IN VEGETATION!
YES... MUCH MORE SO THAN OUR OWN EARTH! IF THERE'S LIFE IN THIS GALAXY, WE'LL FIND IT THERE...
ATTENTION CREW! WE'RE GOING TO DISPATCH AN EXPLORATION PARTY! MAKE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS!
AS THE ENTERPRISE CLOSES ON THE PLANET, SHE PASSES THROUGH AN EERIE SPACE FOG...
...A MIST WITHIN WHICH FLOAT A HANDFUL OF STRANGE PLANT SPORES THAT FASTEN ONTO THE HULL OF THE SHIP...
THE ONE-CELLED REPRODUCTIVE BODIES ARE SO MINUTE, YET SO POWERFUL, THAT THEY SEEP THROUGH THE VERY SUPERSTRUCTURE...
LET'S SEE WHAT THE CAPTAIN ORDERED FOR THE EXPLORATION TEAM, A THREE-DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD CONCENTRATE... WATER CAPSULES...

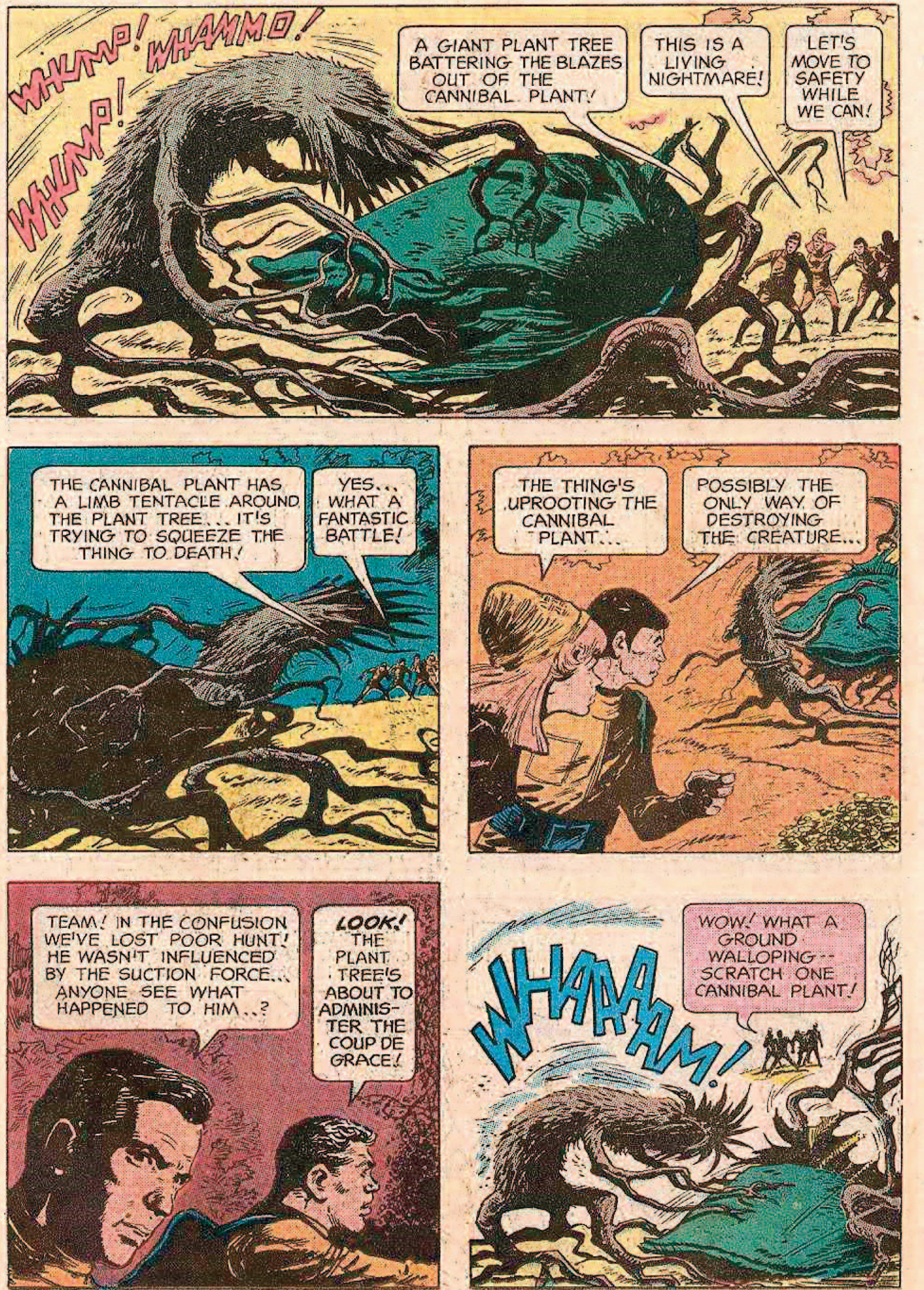

SUDDENLY...
VERY STRANGE! LET US OBSERVE THEM, DR. McCOY...
LISTEN TO *THAT!* WHAT IN THE *WILD HEAVENS* HAS GOTTEN INTO THOSE GUINEA PIGS..?
SQUEEEK!
SQUEEK
SQUEEE!
THE TWO MEN TURN--THEIR EYES FALL ON A STARTLING SIGHT...
THEY'RE MAKING A FANTASTIC TRANSFORMATION OF SOME KIND! IT'S AS IF—
AS IF THEY'RE TURNING INTO *PLANTS!* WE'VE *GOT TO* RECORD THIS ON FILM FOR FUTURE RESEARCH REFERENCE...
BUT BEFORE DR. McCOY CAN ACT, A MENACE NO MORTAL MAN HAS EVER KNOWN EXPLODES FROM THE CAGE AND...
T-THE ANIMALS...THEY'VE TRANSFORMED INTO *GIANT, HOSTILE TREES!*
AND THEY ARE ON A RAMPAGE--OUT TO DESTROY US BOTH! *GUARDS! GUARDS!*

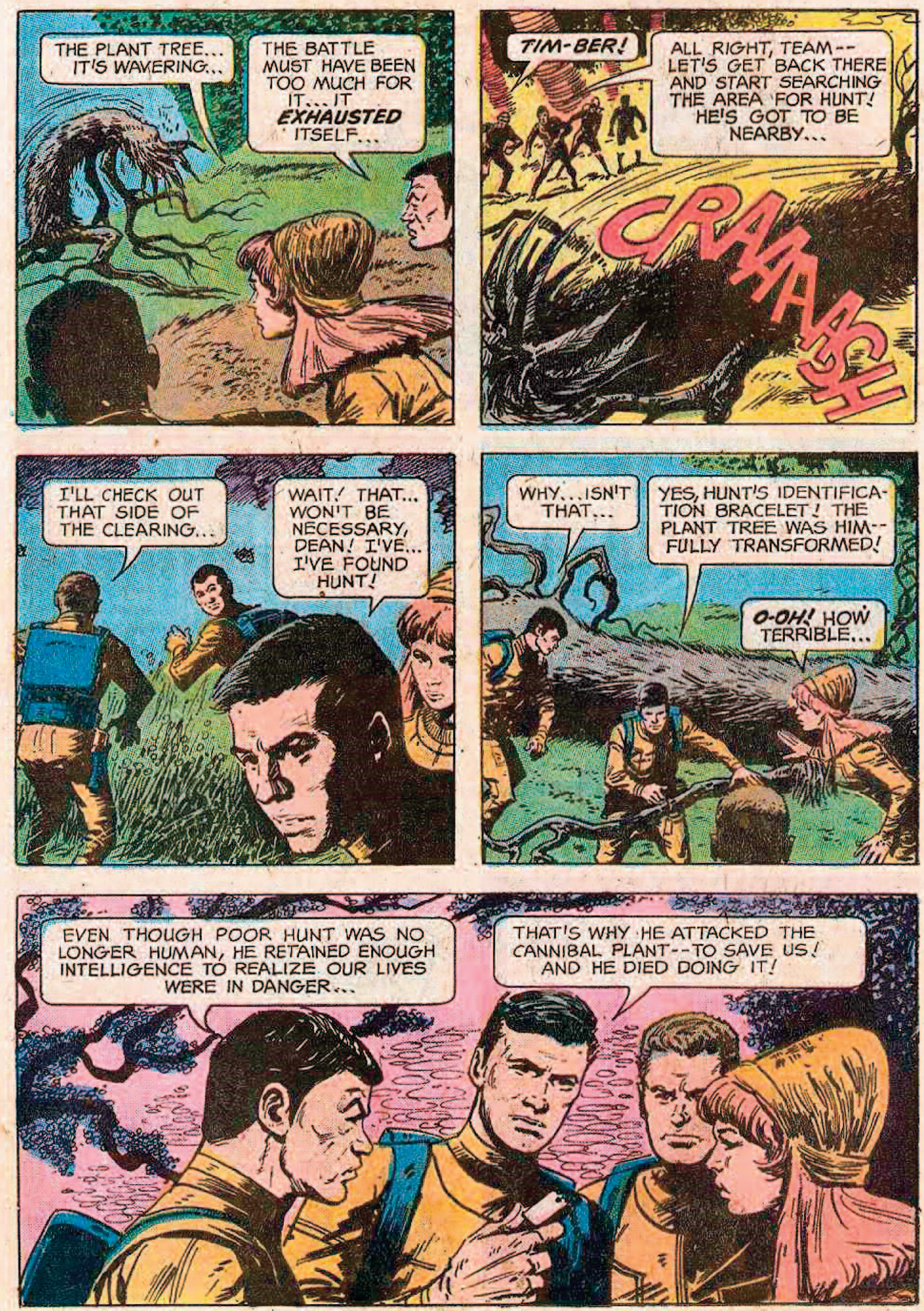

W-WHAT IS IT..?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! THE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO DEVOUR THE DOCTOR AND MR. SPOCK! FIRE! FIRE!
THEY'VE HIT THE CENTRAL POLLEN AREAS OF THE PLANTS --IT SHOULD KILL THEM...
IT IS... I FEEL THE GRASP OF THE PLANT TENTACLE WEAKENING ABOUT ME...
KA-ZAAAP!
ZAAAP!
YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED, GUARDS --YOU... SAVED OUR LIVES!
HOW'D THAT THING GET IN HERE, ANYWAY, MR. SPOCK?
THAT IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE LEARNED--WE MUST KNOW THE CAUSE TO FIND THE CURE-- THE PREVENTATIVE!
WE'D BETTER REPORT THIS TO THE CAPTAIN AT ONCE! NO TELLING WHEN OR WHERE THOSE PLANT CREATURES WILL CROP UP AGAIN!

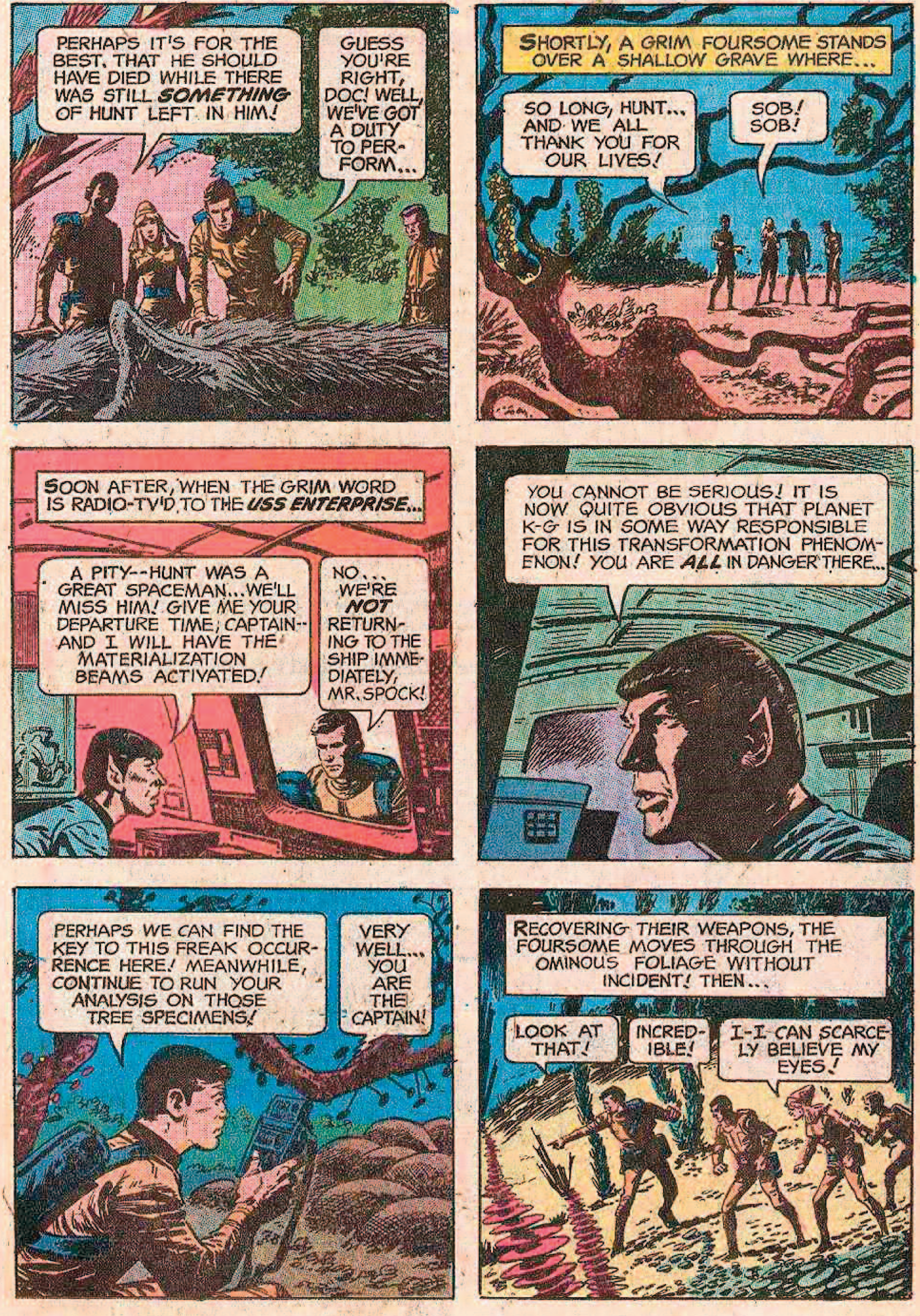

AN EMERGENCY CONFERENCE IS HELD! AND SOON AFTER...
SURELY, YOU MEN OF SCIENCE MUST HAVE SOME IDEA--A LEAD TO HOW SUCH A FREAK OCCURRENCE LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN...
I HAVE ONE THOUGHT--WEEKS AGO WE SPACE-TESTED BOTH THE GUINEA PIGS OUTSIDE THE SHIP...
IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, IN THIS UNKNOWN GALAXY, THAT THEY PICKED UP ALIEN SPORES...
AND THESE SPORES, AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME, REACTED ON THE ANIMALS PHYSICALLY AND BROUGHT ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION! AN EXCELLENT THEORY, MR. SPOCK!
I'LL RUN A SERIES OF TESTS ON THE PLANT REMAINS WHILE YOU GENTLEMEN ARE ON THE EXPLORATION MISSION!
WHICH REMINDS ME--IT'S NEARLY "D" HOUR!* WE'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON, DOCTOR!
*"D" HOUR--DEPARTURE TIME.

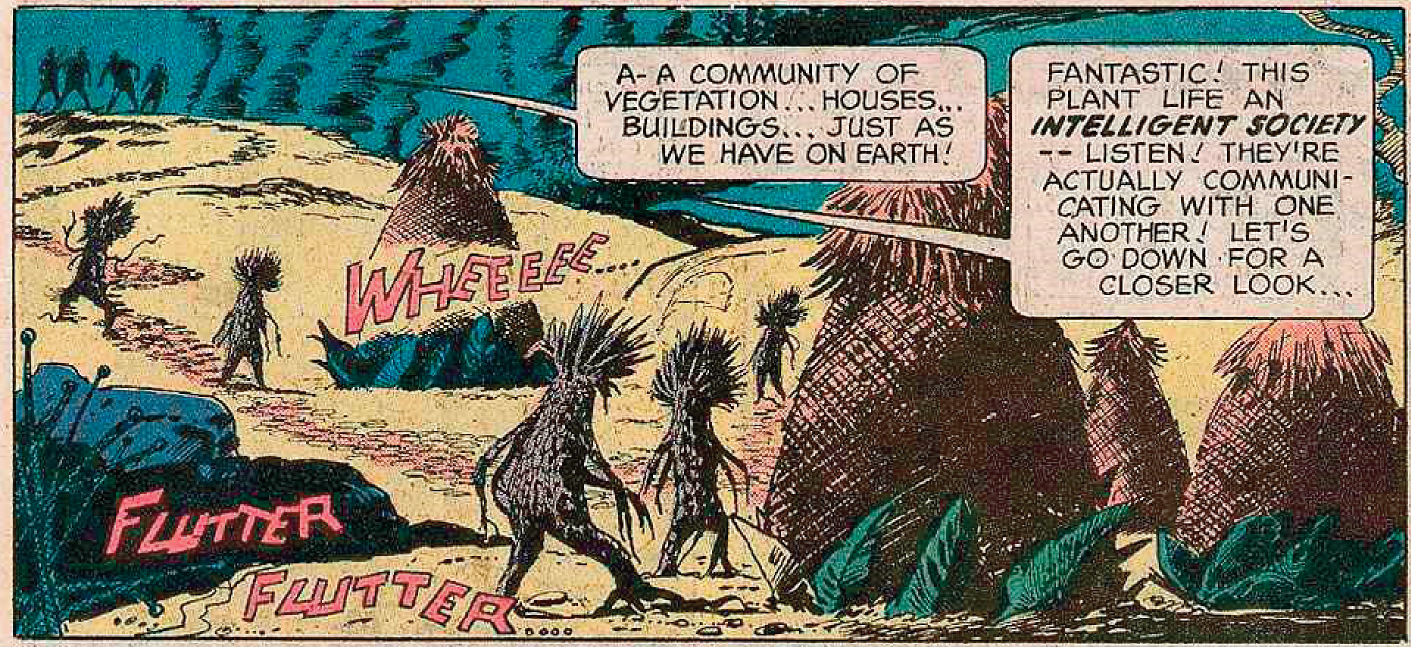

THE CAPTAIN AND DR. McCOY JOIN THE EXPLORATION TEAM IN THE *TELEPORTATION CHAMBER!* BEAMS FROM ABOVE SUDDENLY ILLUMINATE THEIR BODIES AND THEN...
HERE WE GO--- WE'LL MAKE AN HOURLY TV-RADIO REPORT TO THE HOVERING SHIP, MR. SPOCK!
WE WILL ANXIOUSLY BE AWAITING *YOUR* WORD, CAPTAIN! MAY LUCK BE WITH YOU...
AN INSTANT LATER, THE FIVE ARE TELEPORTED THROUGH SPACE TO RE-APPEAR ON THE CELESTIAL BODY THEY NOW REFER TO OFFICIALLY AS *PLANET K-G**...
JUST LOOK AT THE COLORFUL VEGETATION-- ISN'T IT MAGNIFICENT!
YES, JANICE--ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE! WELL, LET'S FAN OUT AND RECONNOITER THE AREA FOR POSSIBLE *INTELLIGENT LIFE* HERE...
**PLANET K-G-- PLANET KELLY GREEN.*
THE TEAM MOVES ACROSS THE *CLEARING!* AS THEY DO SO, CREWMAN HUNT PASSES THROUGH A PATCH OF MIST...
AND AS THE GROUP REACHES THE THICK, MULTICOLORED FOLIAGE...
ALL RIGHT--NOW WE'LL REGROUP AND... *HUNT! WHAT IN HEAVEN HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?*

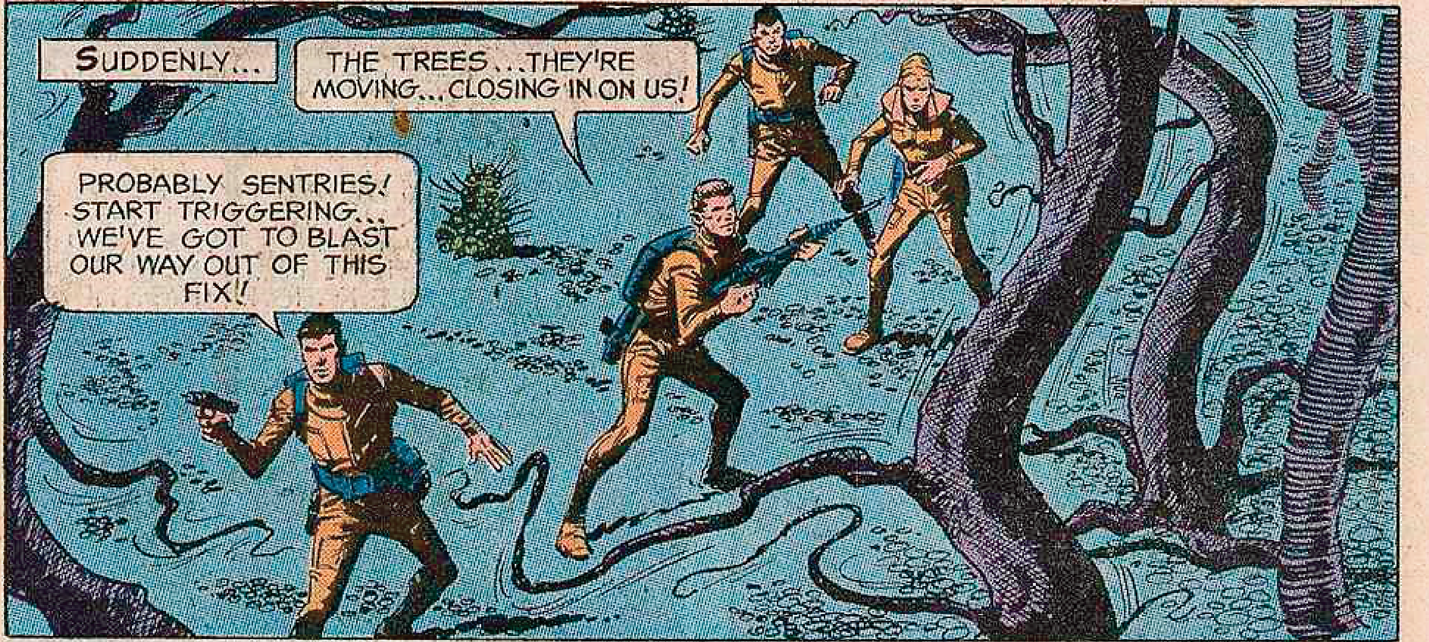

I-I DON'T KNOW ...FEEL STRANGE...
EEEEK! HE'S CHANGING...INTO A-A PLANT!
JUST LIKE THE GUINEA PIGS BACK ON THE SHIP! HUNT! CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR A REPLY-- FOR AT THAT MOMENT...
HEY! SOMETHING'S DRAWING US BACK... BUT WHAT?
DON'T KNOW, DEAN...BUT THE FORCE IS TOO STRONG TO RESIST...
THEN, TERROR SHAKES THE FOURSOME AS...
HOWLING COMETS! THIS SUCTION FORCE IS BEING CREATED BY A GIANT CANNIBAL PLANT! AND IT DREW THE WEAPONS RIGHT OUT OF OUR HANDS!
TRY...TRY TO BREAK FREE...OR THE THING WILL DEVOUR US IN SECONDS!
IT'S NO USE...THE MONSTER'S GOT US ALL...
WHAT A WAY TO DIE!
SUDDENLY...
THE SUCTION FORCE...IT'S SUDDENLY STOPPED! BUT WHY?
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER! LOOK!

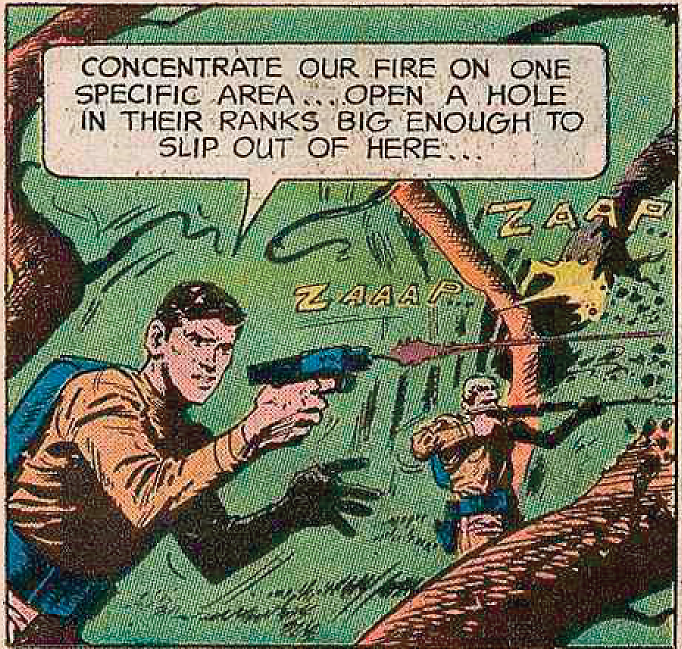

WHUMP! WHAMMO!
WHUMP!
A GIANT PLANT TREE BATTERING THE BLAZES OUT OF THE CANNIBAL PLANT!
THIS IS A LIVING NIGHTMARE!
LET'S MOVE TO SAFETY WHILE WE CAN!
THE CANNIBAL PLANT HAS A LIMB TENTACLE AROUND THE PLANT TREE... IT'S TRYING TO SQUEEZE THE THING TO DEATH!
YES... WHAT A FANTASTIC BATTLE!
THE THING'S UPROOTING THE CANNIBAL PLANT...
POSSIBLY THE ONLY WAY OF DESTROYING THE CREATURE...
TEAM! IN THE CONFUSION WE'VE LOST POOR HUNT! HE WASN'T INFLUENCED BY THE SUCTION FORCE... ANYONE SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM..?
LOOK! THE PLANT TREE'S ABOUT TO ADMINISTER THE COUP DE GRACE!
WHAAAAM!
WOW! WHAT A GROUND WALLOPING-- SCRATCH ONE CANNIBAL PLANT!

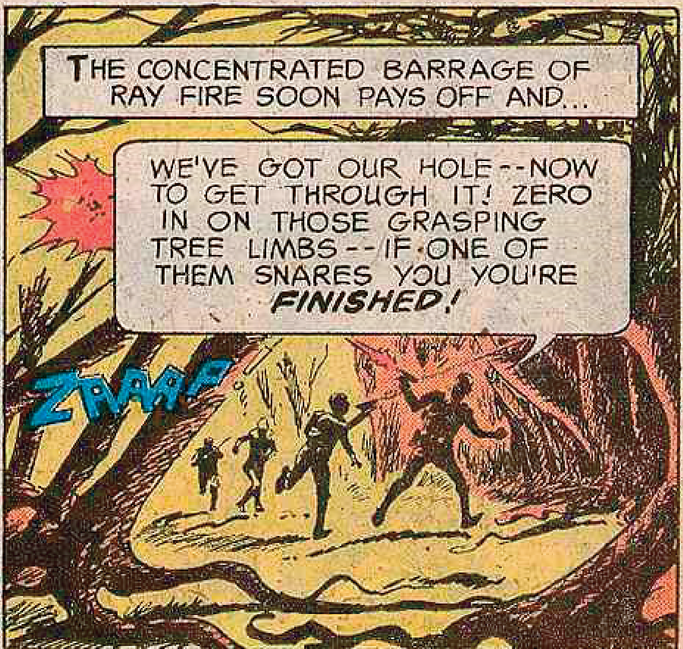

THE PLANT TREE... IT'S WAVERING...
THE BATTLE MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR IT... IT **EXHAUSTED** ITSELF...
TIM-BER!
ALL RIGHT, TEAM--LET'S GET BACK THERE AND START SEARCHING THE AREA FOR HUNT! HE'S GOT TO BE NEARBY...
CRAAAAASH
I'LL CHECK OUT THAT SIDE OF THE CLEARING...
WAIT! THAT... WON'T BE NECESSARY, DEAN! I'VE... I'VE FOUND HUNT!
WHY...ISN'T THAT...
YES, HUNT'S IDENTIFICATION BRACELET! THE PLANT TREE WAS HIM--FULLY TRANSFORMED!
O-OH! HOW TERRIBLE...
EVEN THOUGH POOR HUNT WAS NO LONGER HUMAN, HE RETAINED ENOUGH INTELLIGENCE TO REALIZE OUR LIVES WERE IN DANGER...
THAT'S WHY HE ATTACKED THE CANNIBAL PLANT--TO SAVE US! AND HE DIED DOING IT!

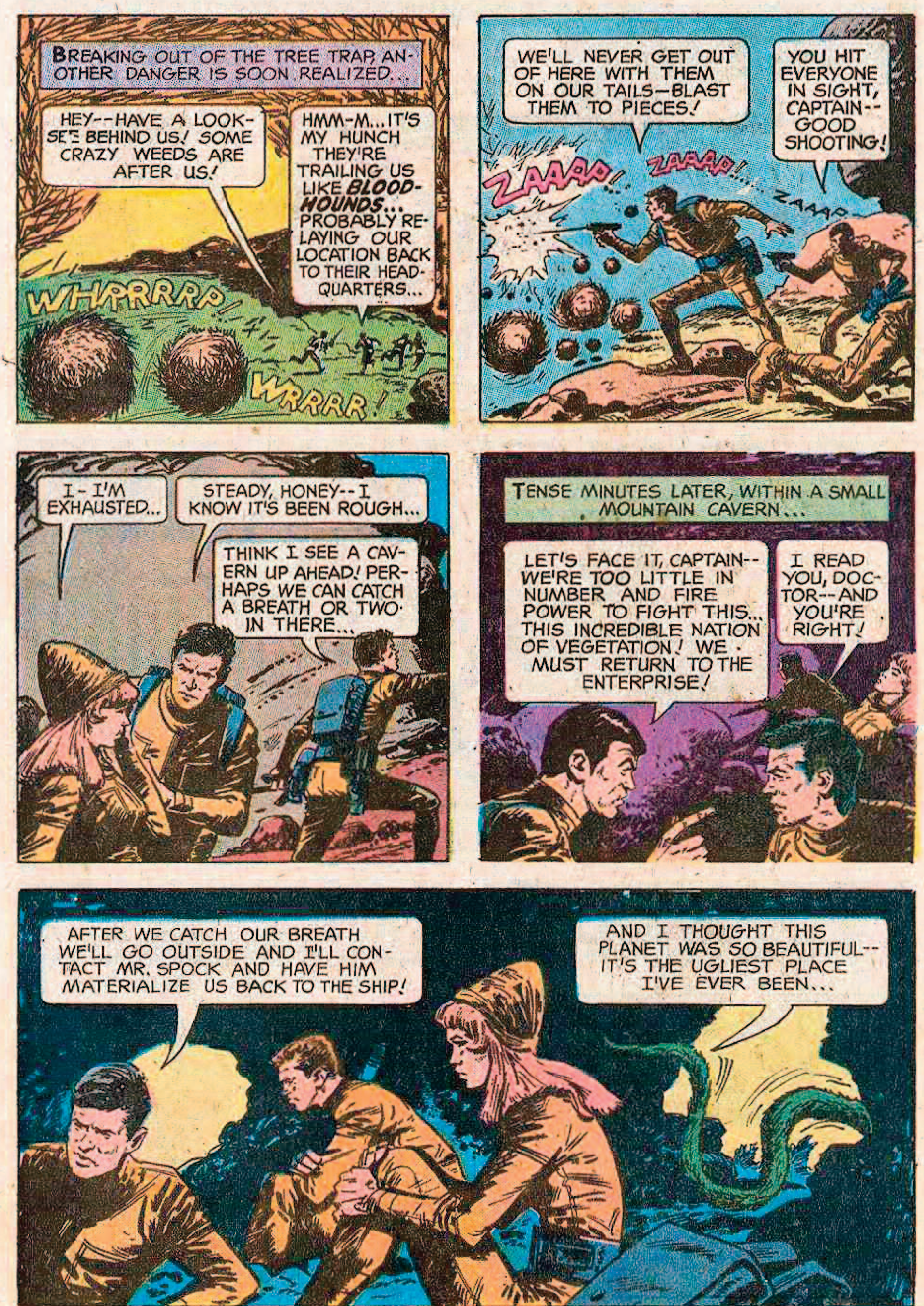

PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST, THAT HE SHOULD HAVE DIED WHILE THERE WAS STILL *SOMETHING* OF HUNT LEFT IN HIM!
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, DOC! WELL, WE'VE GOT A DUTY TO PERFORM...
SHORTLY, A GRIM FOURSOME STANDS OVER A SHALLOW GRAVE WHERE...
SO LONG, HUNT... AND WE ALL THANK YOU FOR OUR LIVES!
SOB! SOB!
SOON AFTER, WHEN THE GRIM WORD IS RADIO-TV'D TO THE *USS ENTERPRISE*...
A PITY--HUNT WAS A GREAT SPACEMAN... WE'LL MISS HIM! GIVE ME YOUR DEPARTURE TIME, CAPTAIN-- AND I WILL HAVE THE MATERIALIZATION BEAMS ACTIVATED!
NO... WE'RE *NOT* RETURNING TO THE SHIP IMMEDIATELY, MR. SPOCK!
YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS! IT IS NOW QUITE OBVIOUS THAT PLANET K-G IS IN SOME WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS TRANSFORMATION PHENOMENON! YOU ARE *ALL* IN DANGER THERE...
PERHAPS WE CAN FIND THE KEY TO THIS FREAK OCCURRENCE HERE! MEANWHILE, CONTINUE TO RUN YOUR ANALYSIS ON THOSE TREE SPECIMENS!
VERY WELL... YOU ARE THE CAPTAIN!
RECOVERING THEIR WEAPONS, THE FOURSOME MOVES THROUGH THE OMINOUS FOLIAGE WITHOUT INCIDENT! THEN...
LOOK AT THAT!
INCREDIBLE!
I-I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE MY EYES!

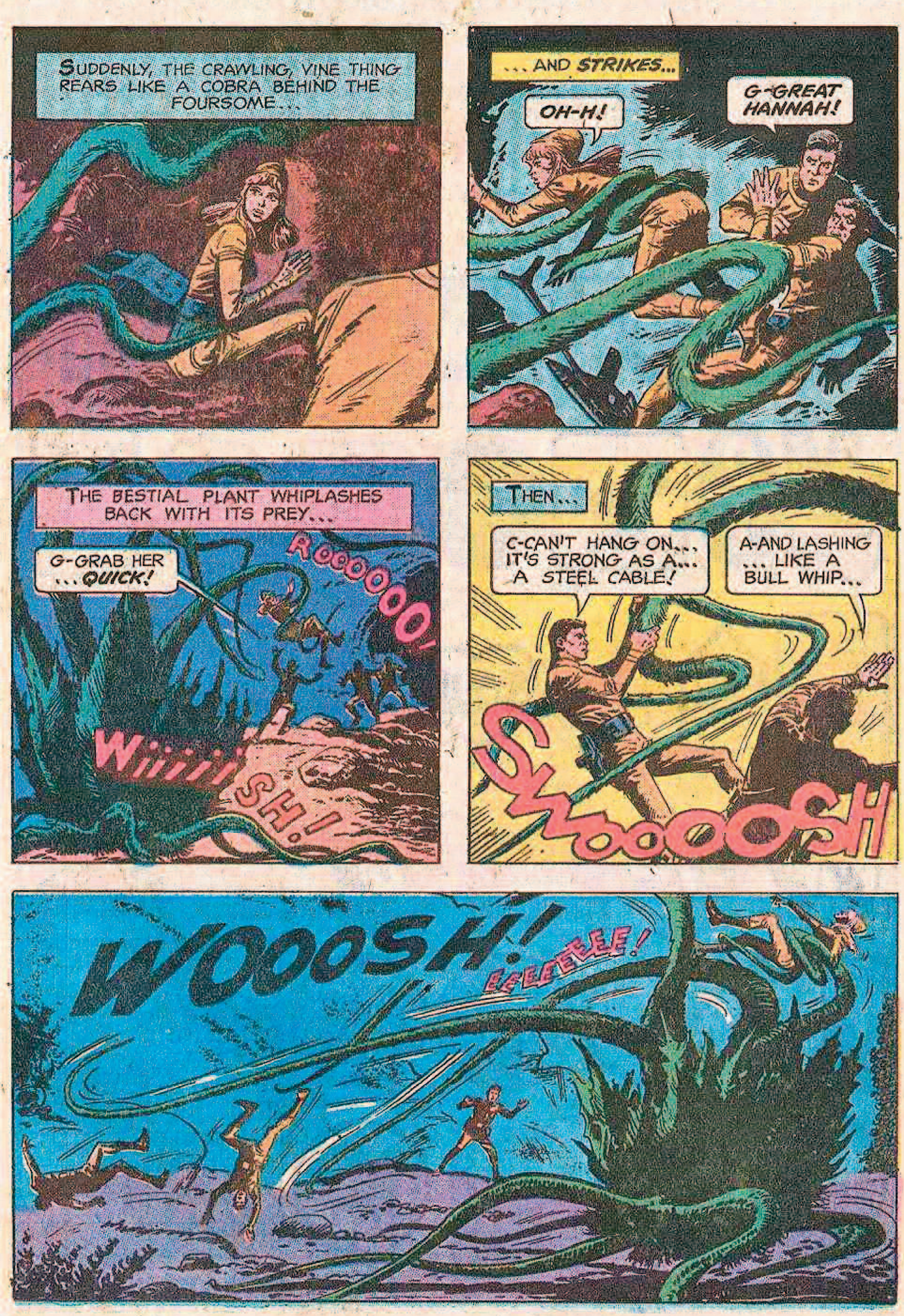

A- A COMMUNITY OF VEGETATION... HOUSES... BUILDINGS... JUST AS WE HAVE ON EARTH!
FANTASTIC! THIS PLANT LIFE AN *INTELLIGENT SOCIETY* -- LISTEN! THEY'RE ACTUALLY COMMUNICATING WITH ONE ANOTHER! LET'S GO DOWN FOR A CLOSER LOOK...
WHEEEEE....
FLUTTER
FLUTTER....

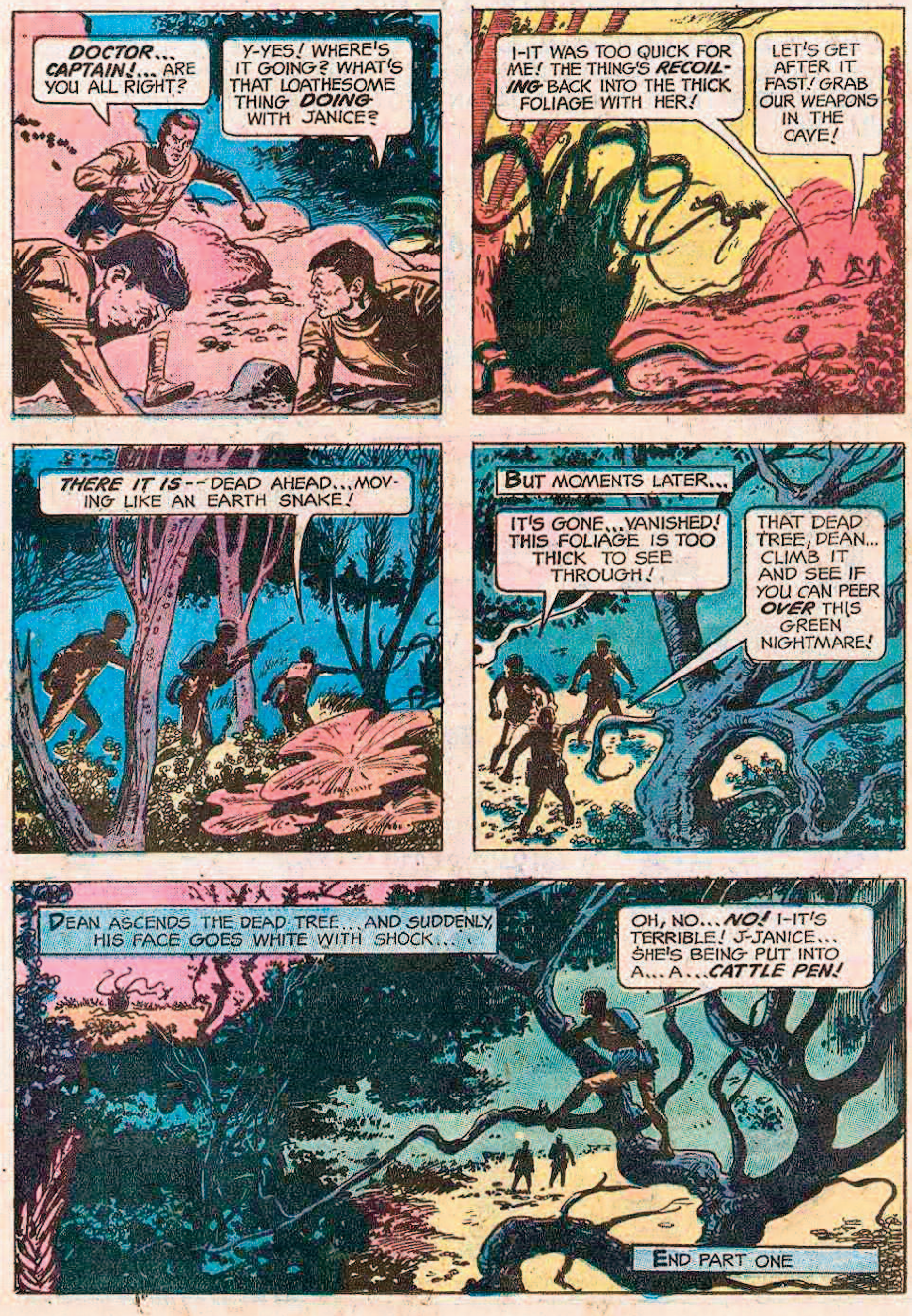

SUDDENLY...
THE TREES... THEY'RE MOVING... CLOSING IN ON US!
PROBABLY SENTRIES! START TRIGGERING... WE'VE GOT TO BLAST OUR WAY OUT OF THIS FIX!


CONCENTRATE OUR FIRE ON ONE SPECIFIC AREA... OPEN A HOLE IN THEIR RANKS BIG ENOUGH TO SLIP OUT OF HERE...
ZAAP
ZAAAP


THE CONCENTRATED BARRAGE OF RAY FIRE SOON PAYS OFF AND...
WE'VE GOT OUR HOLE--NOW TO GET THROUGH IT! ZERO IN ON THOSE GRASPING TREE LIMBS--IF ONE OF THEM SNARES YOU YOU'RE *FINISHED!*
ZAAAP


BREAKING OUT OF THE TREE TRAP, ANOTHER DANGER IS SOON REALIZED...
HEY--HAVE A LOOK-SEE BEHIND US! SOME CRAZY WEEDS ARE AFTER US!
HMM-M...IT'S MY HUNCH THEY'RE TRAILING US LIKE *BLOODHOUNDS*... PROBABLY RELAYING OUR LOCATION BACK TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS...
WHRRRRP!
WRRRR!
WE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE WITH THEM ON OUR TAILS—BLAST THEM TO PIECES!
YOU HIT EVERYONE IN SIGHT, CAPTAIN--GOOD SHOOTING!
ZAAAP!
ZAAAP!
ZAAAP
I-I'M EXHAUSTED...
STEADY, HONEY--I KNOW IT'S BEEN ROUGH...
THINK I SEE A CAVERN UP AHEAD! PERHAPS WE CAN CATCH A BREATH OR TWO IN THERE...
TENSE MINUTES LATER, WITHIN A SMALL MOUNTAIN CAVERN...
LET'S FACE IT, CAPTAIN--WE'RE TOO LITTLE IN NUMBER AND FIRE POWER TO FIGHT THIS... THIS INCREDIBLE NATION OF VEGETATION! WE MUST RETURN TO THE ENTERPRISE!
I READ YOU, DOCTOR--AND YOU'RE RIGHT!
AFTER WE CATCH OUR BREATH WE'LL GO OUTSIDE AND I'LL CONTACT MR. SPOCK AND HAVE HIM MATERIALIZE US BACK TO THE SHIP!
AND I THOUGHT THIS PLANET WAS SO BEAUTIFUL--IT'S THE UGLIEST PLACE I'VE EVER BEEN...

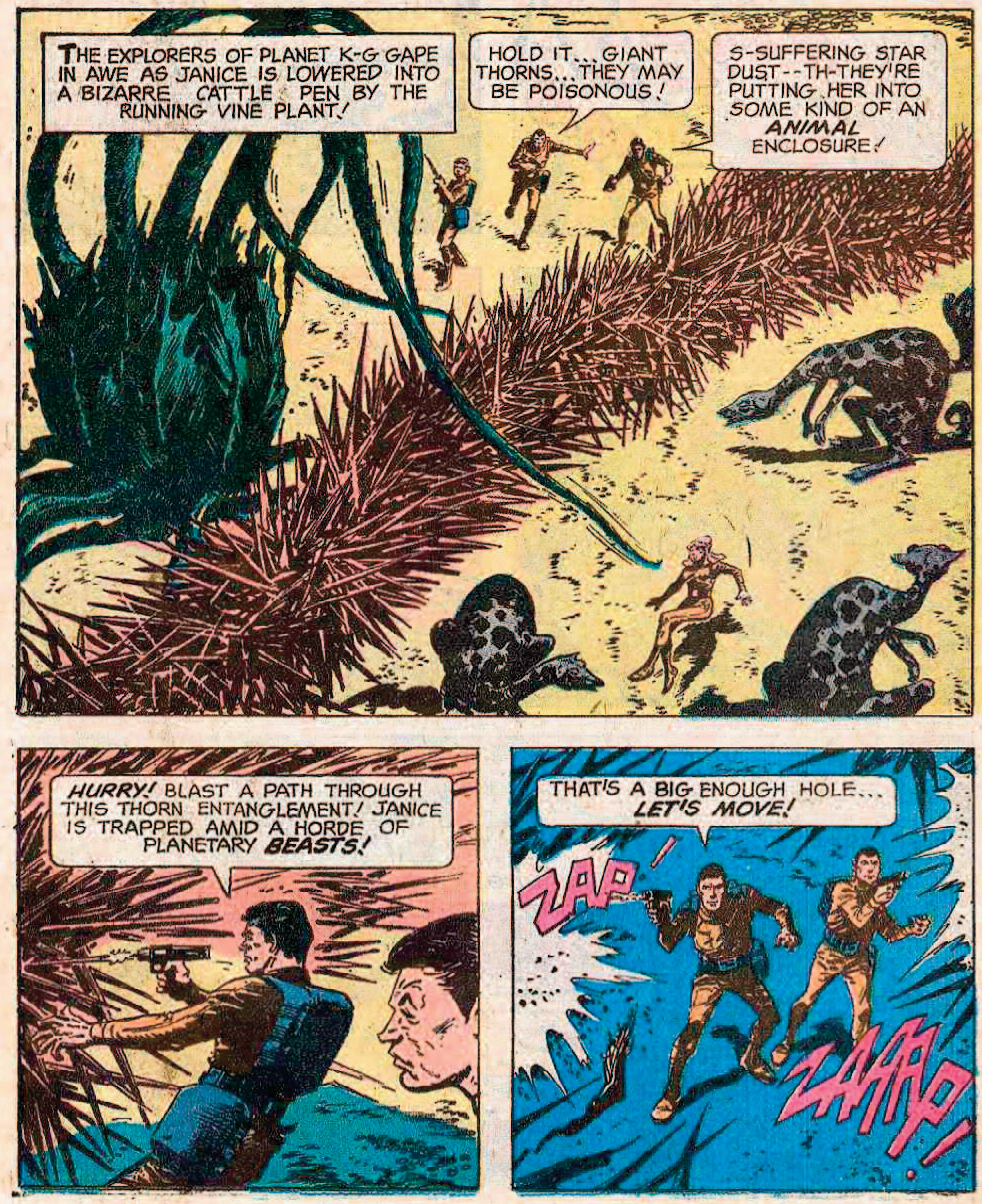

SUDDENLY, THE CRAWLING, VINE THING REARS LIKE A COBRA BEHIND THE FOURSOME...
... AND STRIKES...
OH-H!
G-GREAT HANNAH!
THE BESTIAL PLANT WHIPLASHES BACK WITH ITS PREY...
G-GRAB HER ...QUICK!
ROOOOOOO!
WIIIIISH!
THEN...
C-CAN'T HANG ON... IT'S STRONG AS A... A STEEL CABLE!
A-AND LASHING ... LIKE A BULL WHIP...
SWOOOOOSH
WOOOSH!
EEEEEEEE!

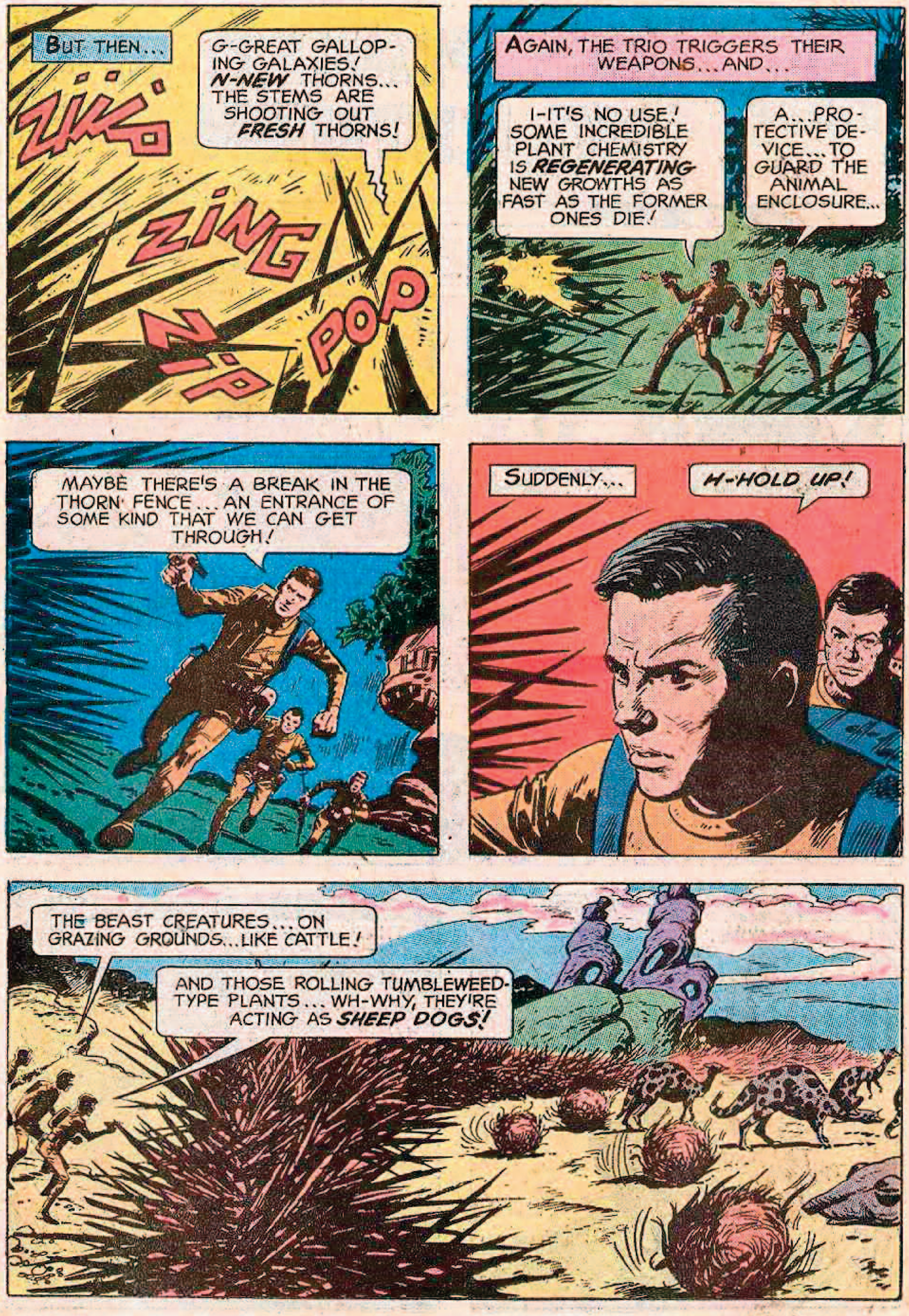

DOCTOR... CAPTAIN!... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y-YES! WHERE'S IT GOING? WHAT'S THAT LOATHESOME THING DOING WITH JANICE?
I-IT WAS TOO QUICK FOR ME! THE THING'S RECOILING BACK INTO THE THICK FOLIAGE WITH HER!
LET'S GET AFTER IT FAST! GRAB OUR WEAPONS IN THE CAVE!
THERE IT IS--DEAD AHEAD...MOVING LIKE AN EARTH SNAKE!
BUT MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S GONE...VANISHED! THIS FOLIAGE IS TOO THICK TO SEE THROUGH!
THAT DEAD TREE, DEAN... CLIMB IT AND SEE IF YOU CAN PEER OVER THIS GREEN NIGHTMARE!
DEAN ASCENDS THE DEAD TREE... AND SUDDENLY, HIS FACE GOES WHITE WITH SHOCK...
OH, NO... NO! I-IT'S TERRIBLE! J-JANICE... SHE'S BEING PUT INTO A... A... CATTLE PEN!
END PART ONE

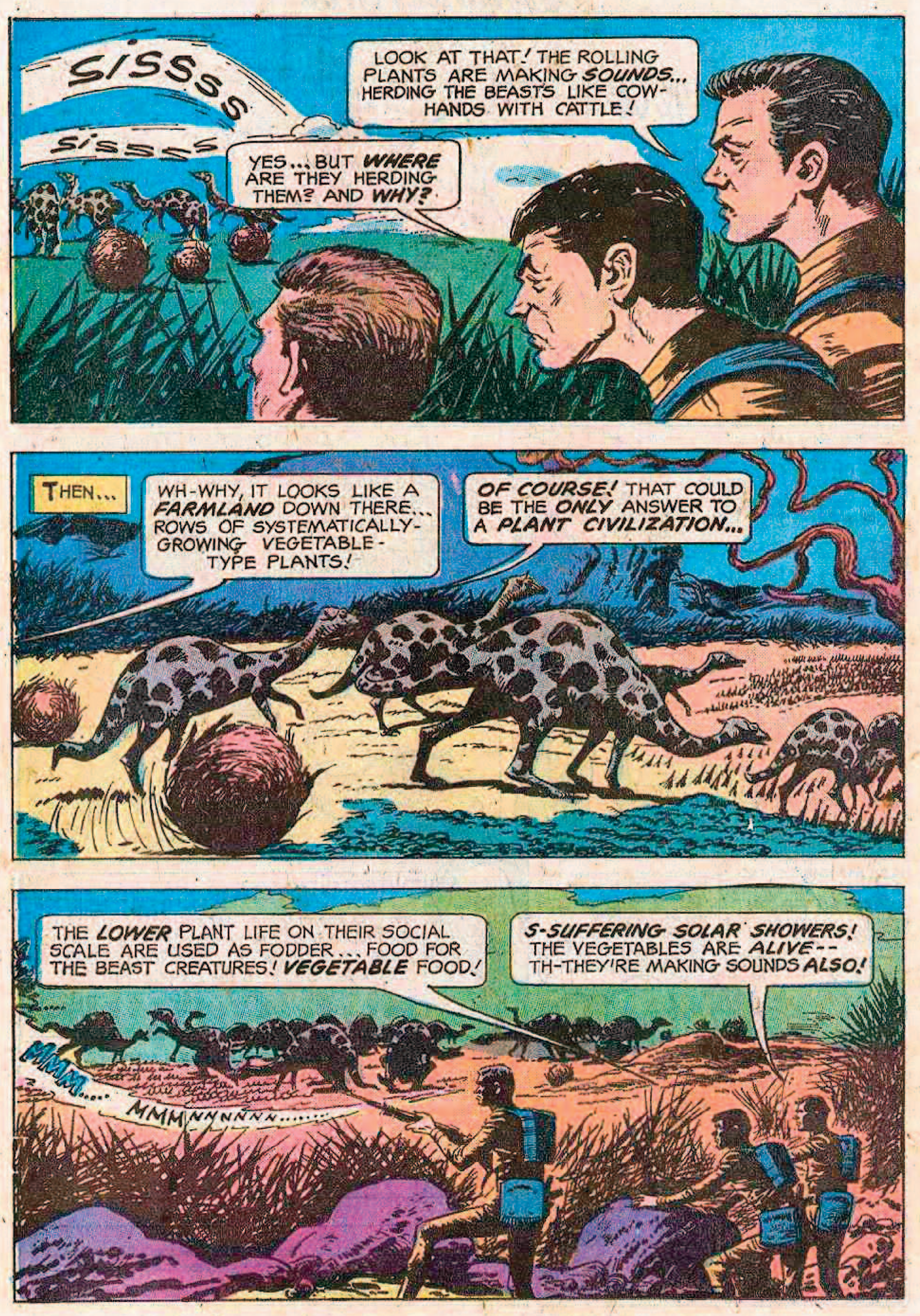
STAR TREK

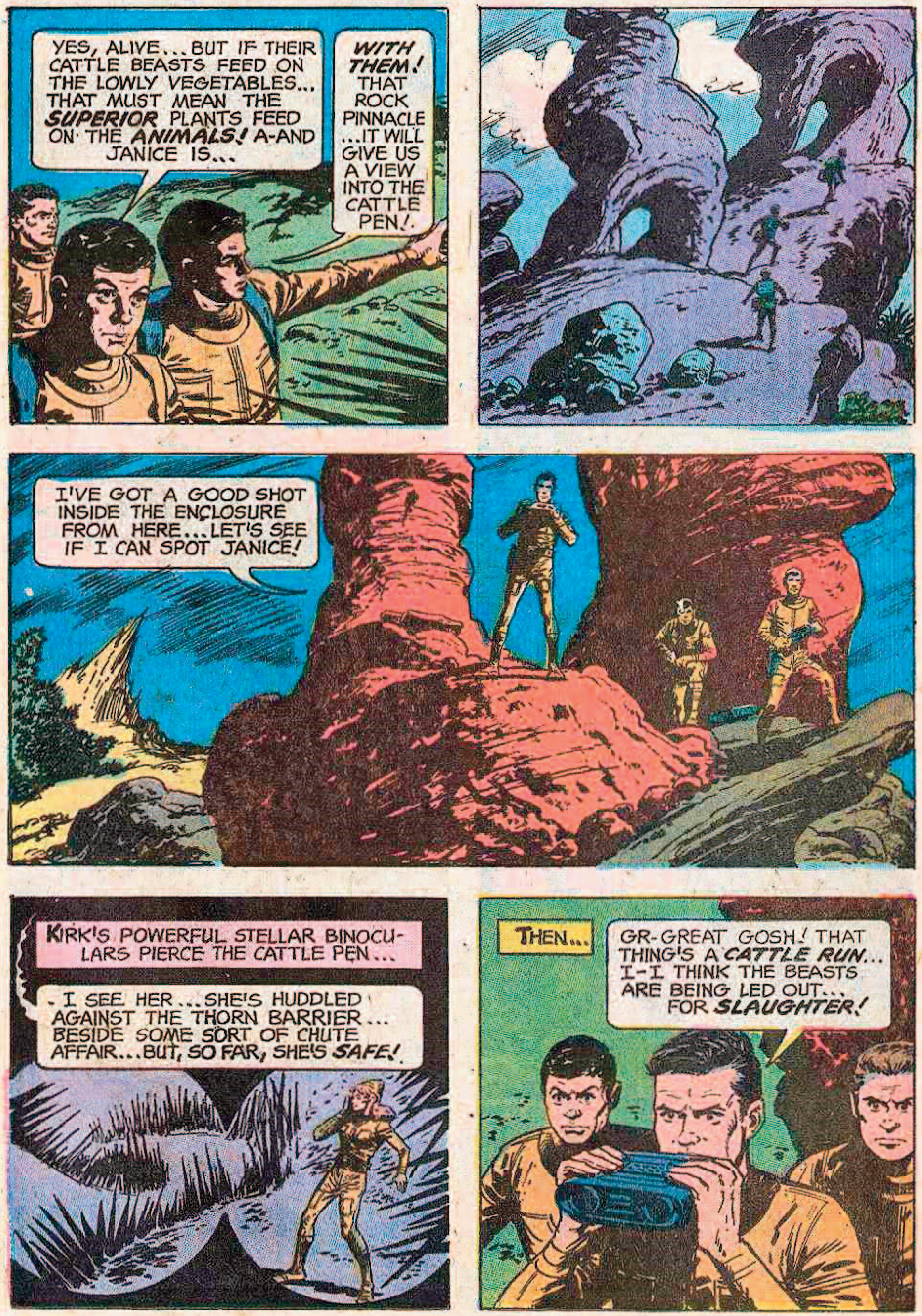
THE PLANET OF NO RETURN

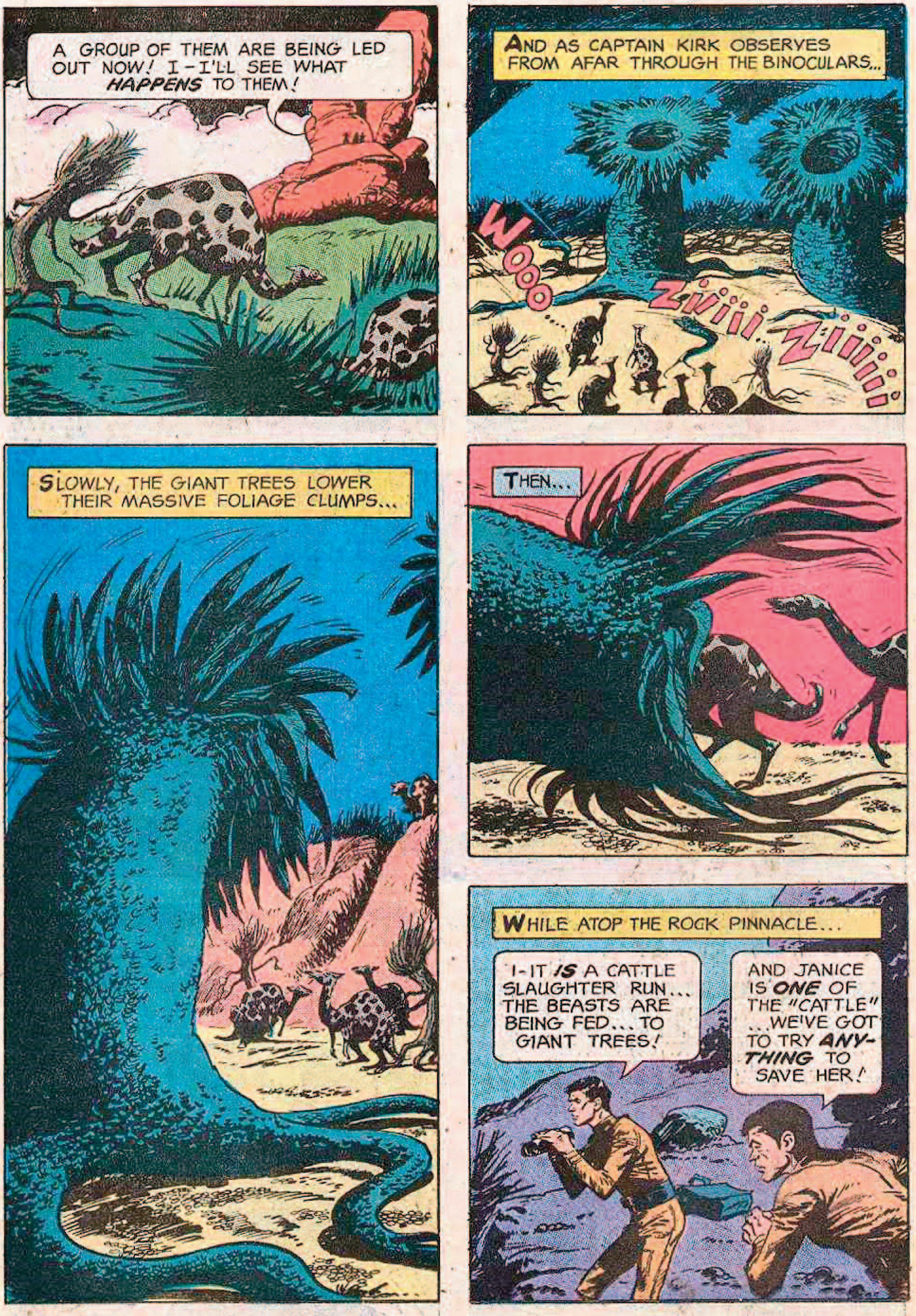
PART II

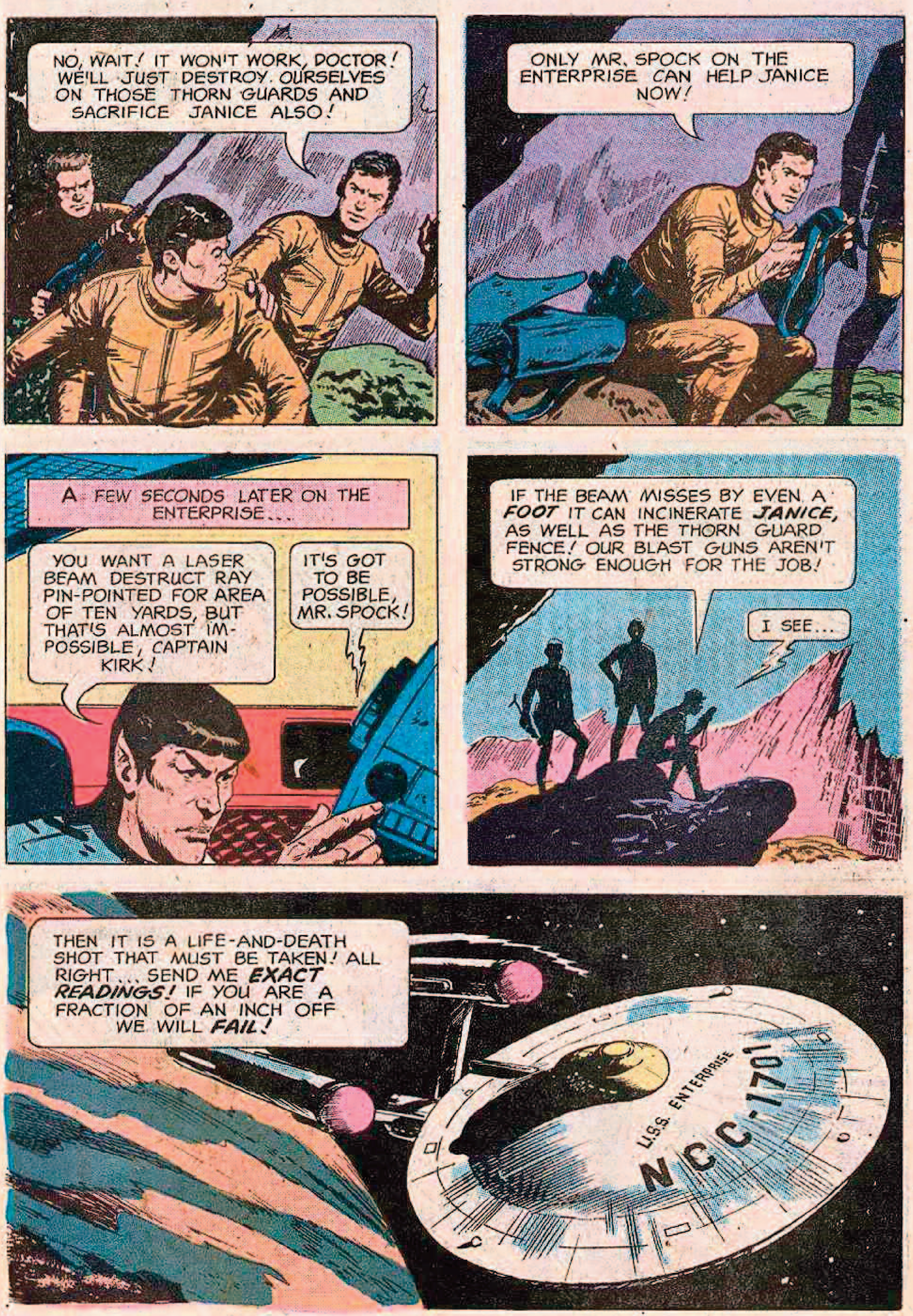

THE EXPLORERS OF PLANET K-G GAPE IN AWE AS JANICE IS LOWERED INTO A BIZARRE CATTLE PEN BY THE RUNNING VINE PLANT!
HOLD IT... GIANT THORNS... THEY MAY BE POISONOUS!
S-SUFFERING STAR DUST--TH-THEY'RE PUTTING HER INTO SOME KIND OF AN *ANIMAL* ENCLOSURE!
HURRY! BLAST A PATH THROUGH THIS THORN ENTANGLEMENT! JANICE IS TRAPPED AMID A HORDE OF PLANETARY *BEASTS!*
THAT'S A BIG ENOUGH HOLE... *LET'S MOVE!*
ZAP!
ZAAAP!

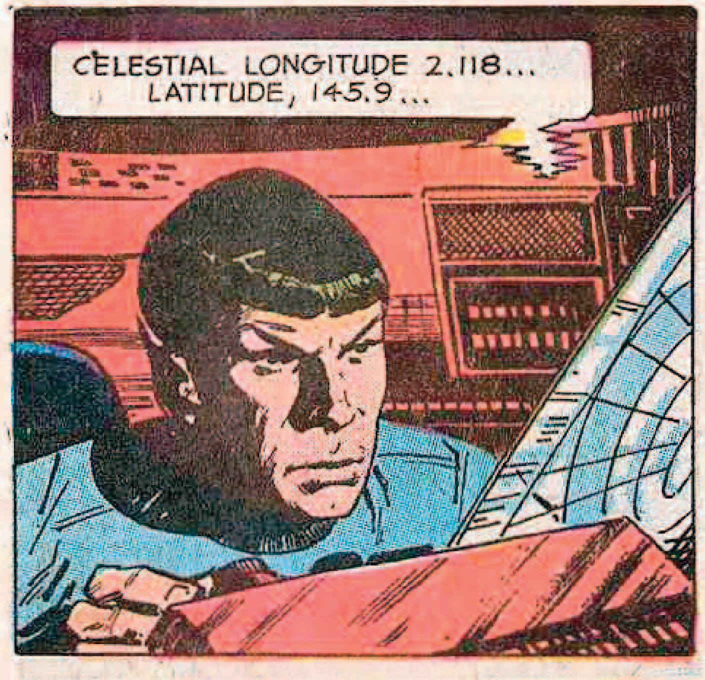

BUT THEN...
G-GREAT GALLOPING GALAXIES! *N-NEW* THORNS... THE STEMS ARE SHOOTING OUT *FRESH* THORNS!
ZIKP
ZING
ZIP
POP
AGAIN, THE TRIO TRIGGERS THEIR WEAPONS...AND...
I-IT'S NO USE! SOME INCREDIBLE PLANT CHEMISTRY IS *REGENERATING* NEW GROWTHS AS FAST AS THE FORMER ONES DIE!
A...PROTECTIVE DEVICE...TO GUARD THE ANIMAL ENCLOSURE...
MAYBE THERE'S A BREAK IN THE THORN FENCE... AN ENTRANCE OF SOME KIND THAT WE CAN GET THROUGH!
SUDDENLY...
H-HOLD UP!
THE BEAST CREATURES... ON GRAZING GROUNDS... LIKE CATTLE!
AND THOSE ROLLING TUMBLEWEED-TYPE PLANTS... WH-WHY, THEY'RE ACTING AS *SHEEP DOGS!*

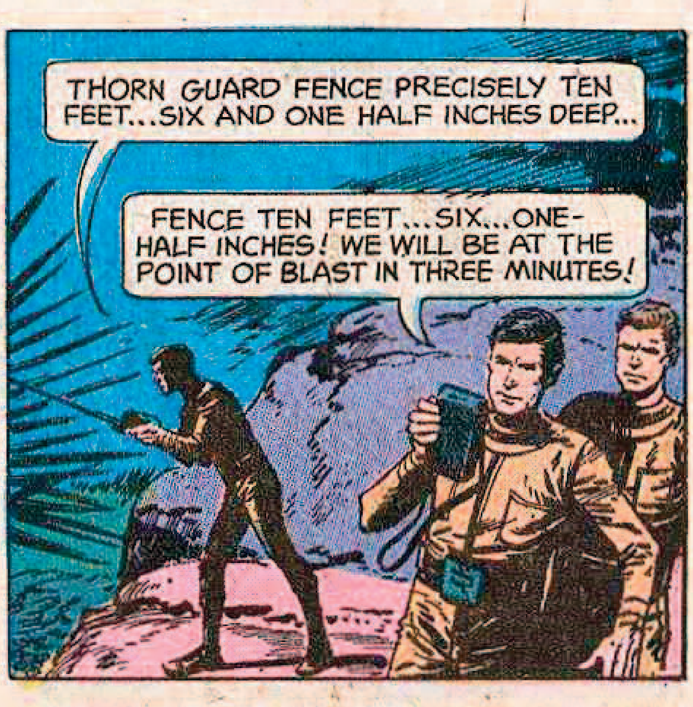

SISSSS
SISSSS
LOOK AT THAT! THE ROLLING PLANTS ARE MAKING *SOUNDS*... HERDING THE BEASTS LIKE COW-HANDS WITH CATTLE!
YES... BUT *WHERE* ARE THEY HERDING THEM? AND *WHY?*
THEN...
WH-WHY, IT LOOKS LIKE A *FARMLAND* DOWN THERE... ROWS OF SYSTEMATICALLY-GROWING VEGETABLE-TYPE PLANTS!
OF COURSE! THAT COULD BE THE *ONLY* ANSWER TO A *PLANT CIVILIZATION*...
THE *LOWER* PLANT LIFE ON THEIR SOCIAL SCALE ARE USED AS FODDER... FOOD FOR THE BEAST CREATURES! *VEGETABLE* FOOD!
S-SUFFERING SOLAR SHOWERS! THE VEGETABLES ARE *ALIVE*-- TH-THEY'RE MAKING SOUNDS *ALSO!*
MMM.... MMMNNNNNN.......

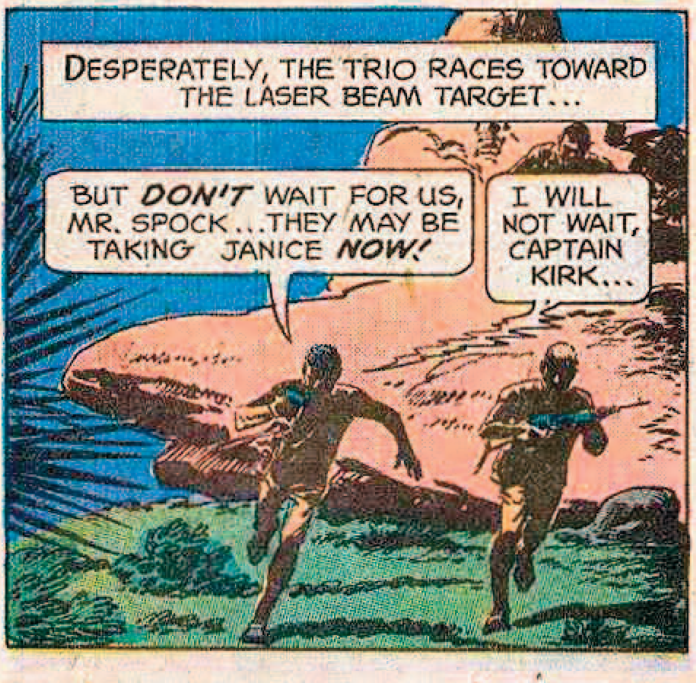

YES, ALIVE... BUT IF THEIR CATTLE BEASTS FEED ON THE LOWLY VEGETABLES... THAT MUST MEAN THE *SUPERIOR* PLANTS FEED ON THE *ANIMALS!* A-AND JANICE IS...
WITH THEM! THAT ROCK PINNACLE ...IT WILL GIVE US A VIEW INTO THE CATTLE PEN!
I'VE GOT A GOOD SHOT INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE FROM HERE... LET'S SEE IF I CAN SPOT JANICE!
KIRK'S POWERFUL STELLAR BINOCULARS PIERCE THE CATTLE PEN...
I SEE HER... SHE'S HUDDLED AGAINST THE THORN BARRIER... BESIDE SOME SORT OF CHUTE AFFAIR... BUT, SO FAR, SHE'S *SAFE!*
THEN...
GR-GREAT GOSH! THAT THING'S A *CATTLE RUN*... I-I THINK THE BEASTS ARE BEING LED OUT... FOR *SLAUGHTER!*

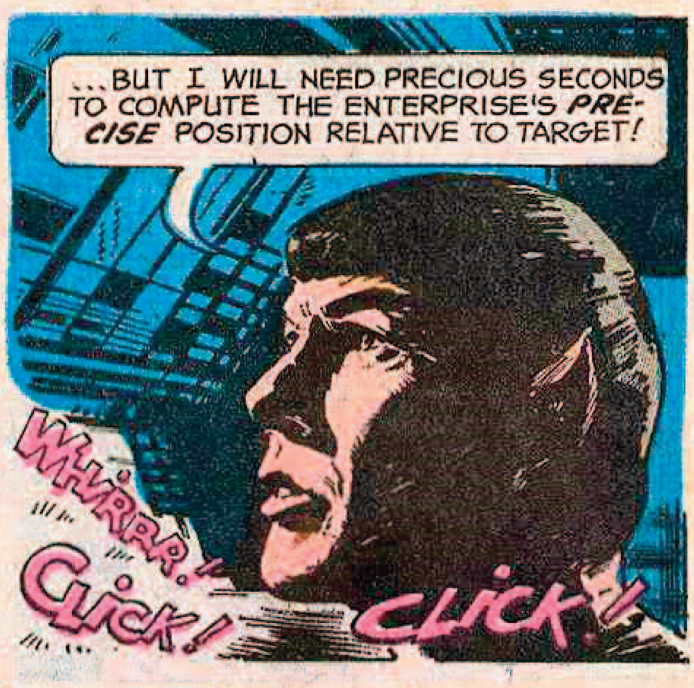

A GROUP OF THEM ARE BEING LED OUT NOW! I-I'LL SEE WHAT *HAPPENS* TO THEM!
AND AS CAPTAIN KIRK OBSERVES FROM AFAR THROUGH THE BINOCULARS...
WOOO...
ZWIIII...
ZIIIIII
SLOWLY, THE GIANT TREES LOWER THEIR MASSIVE FOLIAGE CLUMPS...
THEN...
WHILE ATOP THE ROCK PINNACLE...
I-IT *IS* A CATTLE SLAUGHTER RUN... THE BEASTS ARE BEING FED... TO GIANT TREES!
AND JANICE IS *ONE* OF THE "CATTLE" ..WE'VE GOT TO TRY *ANYTHING* TO SAVE HER!

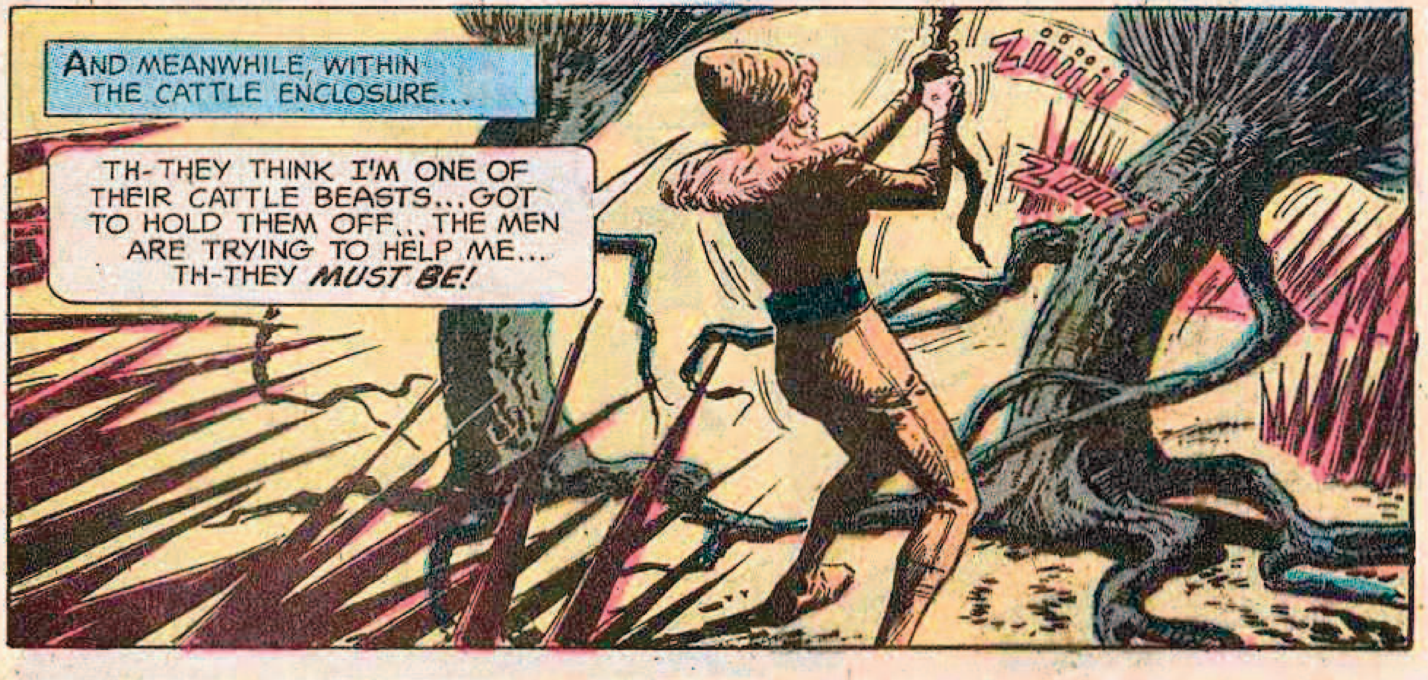

NO, WAIT! IT WON'T WORK, DOCTOR! WE'LL JUST DESTROY OURSELVES ON THOSE THORN GUARDS AND SACRIFICE JANICE ALSO!
ONLY MR. SPOCK ON THE ENTERPRISE CAN HELP JANICE NOW!
A FEW SECONDS LATER ON THE ENTERPRISE...
YOU WANT A LASER BEAM DESTRUCT RAY PIN-POINTED FOR AREA OF TEN YARDS, BUT THAT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, CAPTAIN KIRK!
IT'S GOT TO BE POSSIBLE, MR. SPOCK!
IF THE BEAM MISSES BY EVEN A FOOT IT CAN INCINERATE JANICE, AS WELL AS THE THORN GUARD FENCE! OUR BLAST GUNS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH FOR THE JOB!
I SEE...
THEN IT IS A LIFE-AND-DEATH SHOT THAT MUST BE TAKEN! ALL RIGHT... SEND ME EXACT READINGS! IF YOU ARE A FRACTION OF AN INCH OFF WE WILL FAIL!
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701

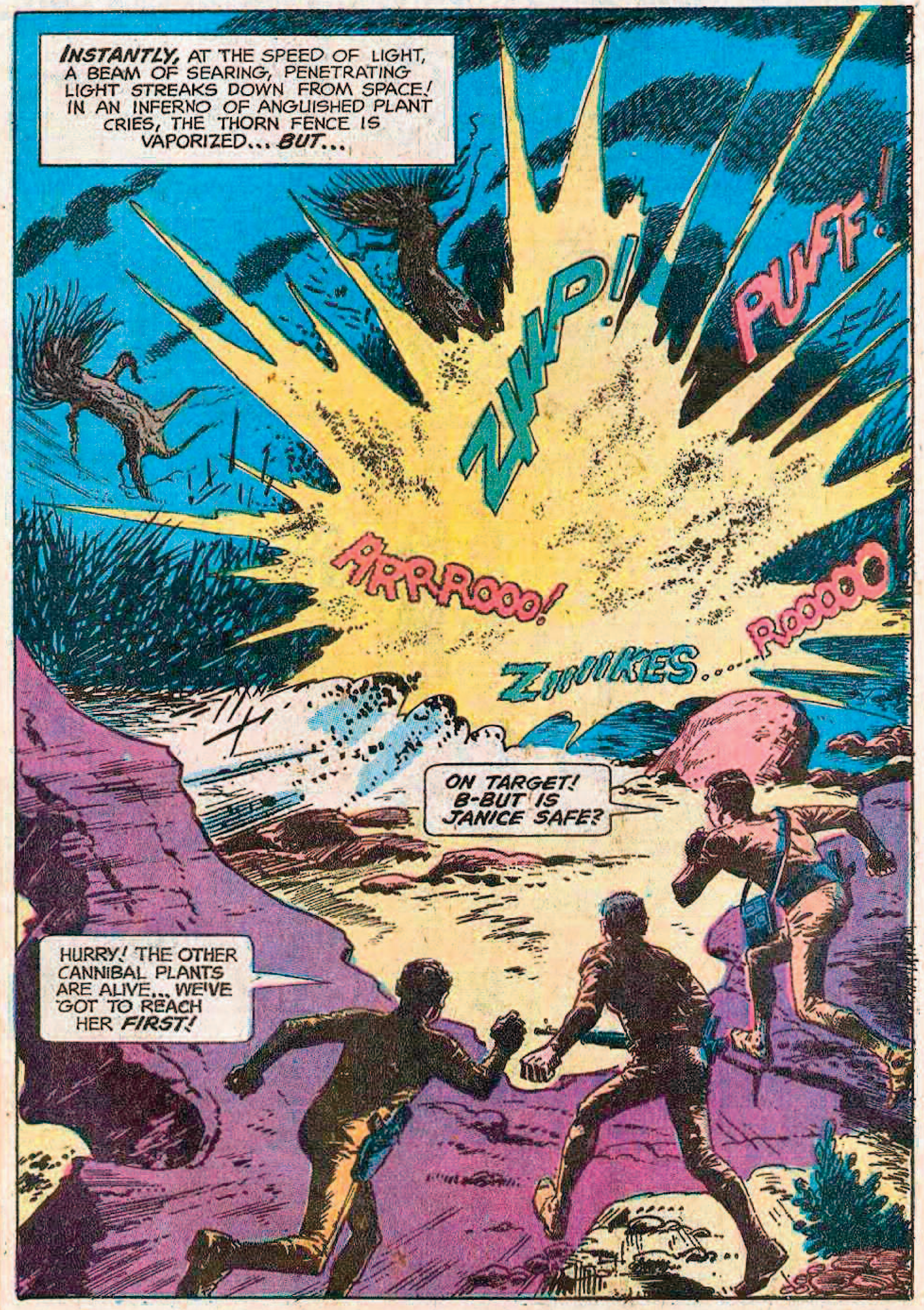

CELESTIAL LONGITUDE 2.118... LATITUDE, 145.9...

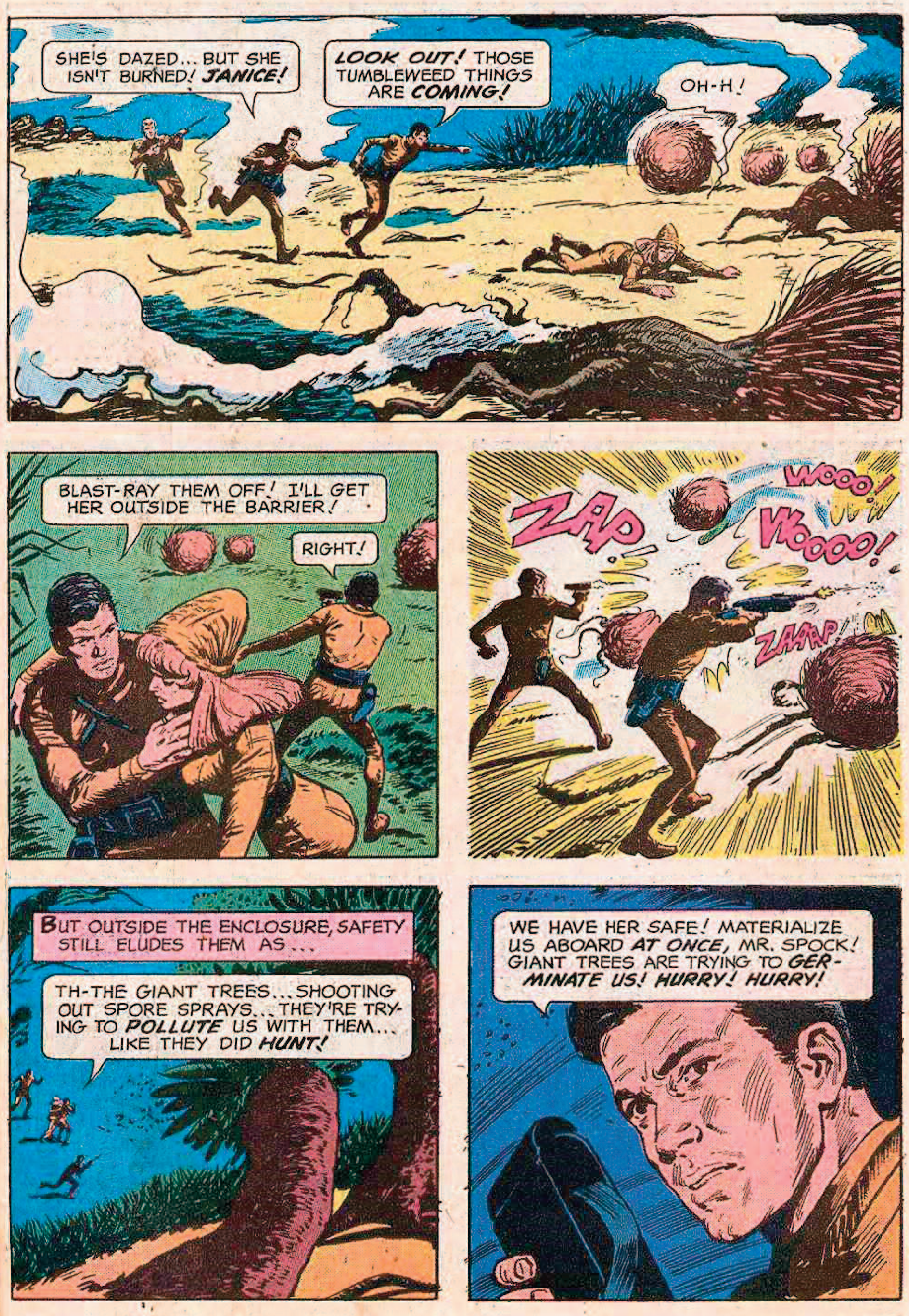

THORN GUARD FENCE PRECISELY TEN FEET...SIX AND ONE HALF INCHES DEEP...
FENCE TEN FEET...SIX...ONE-HALF INCHES! WE WILL BE AT THE POINT OF BLAST IN THREE MINUTES!

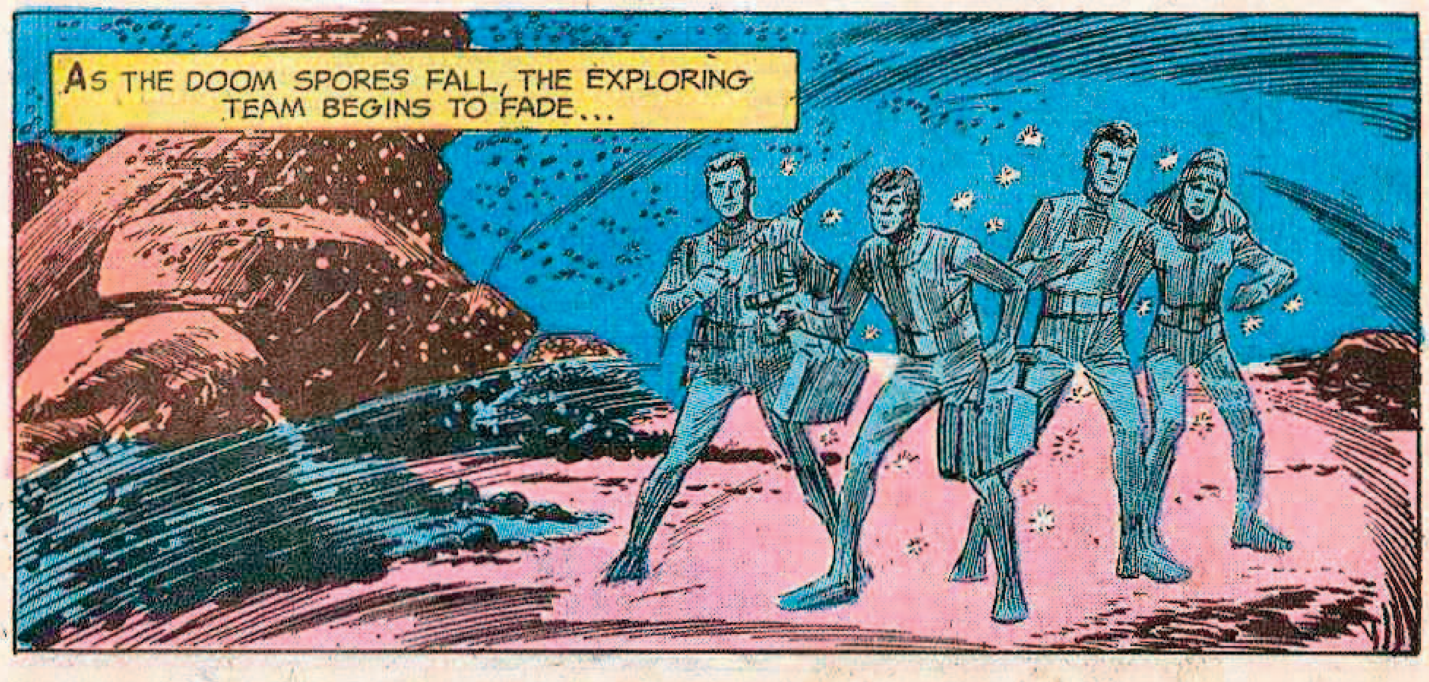

DESPERATELY, THE TRIO RACES TOWARD THE LASER BEAM TARGET...
BUT *DON'T* WAIT FOR US, MR. SPOCK...THEY MAY BE TAKING JANICE *NOW!*
I WILL NOT WAIT, CAPTAIN KIRK...

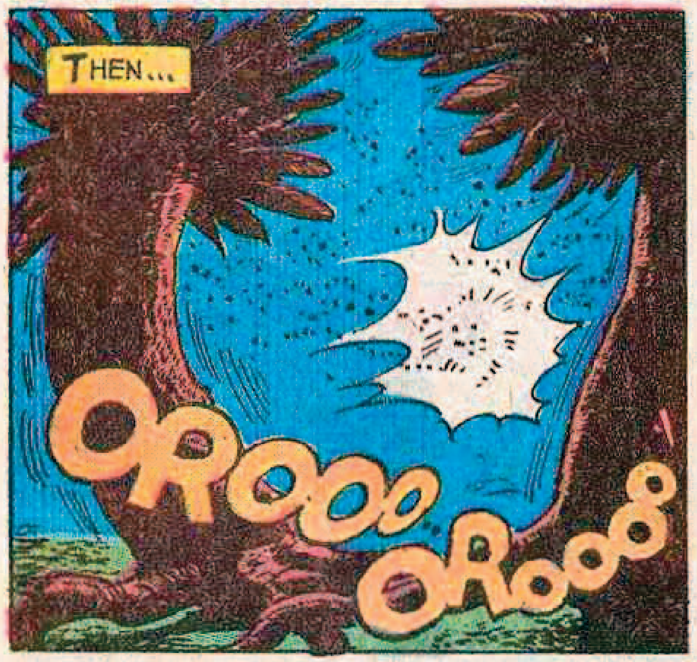

...BUT I WILL NEED PRECIOUS SECONDS TO COMPUTE THE ENTERPRISE'S *PRECISE* POSITION RELATIVE TO TARGET!
WHRRRR!
CLICK!
CLICK!

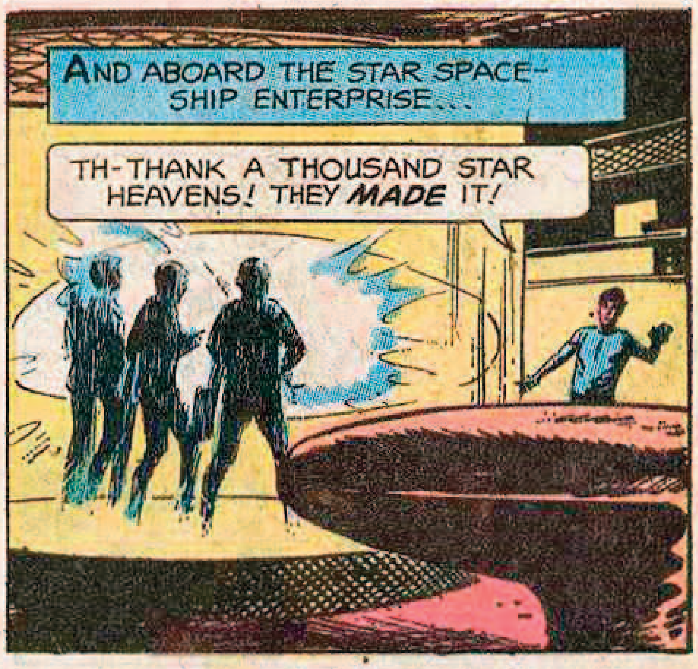

AND MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE CATTLE ENCLOSURE...
TH-THEY THINK I'M ONE OF THEIR CATTLE BEASTS...GOT TO HOLD THEM OFF...THE MEN ARE TRYING TO HELP ME... TH-THEY *MUST BE!*
ZIIIII
ZOOOO

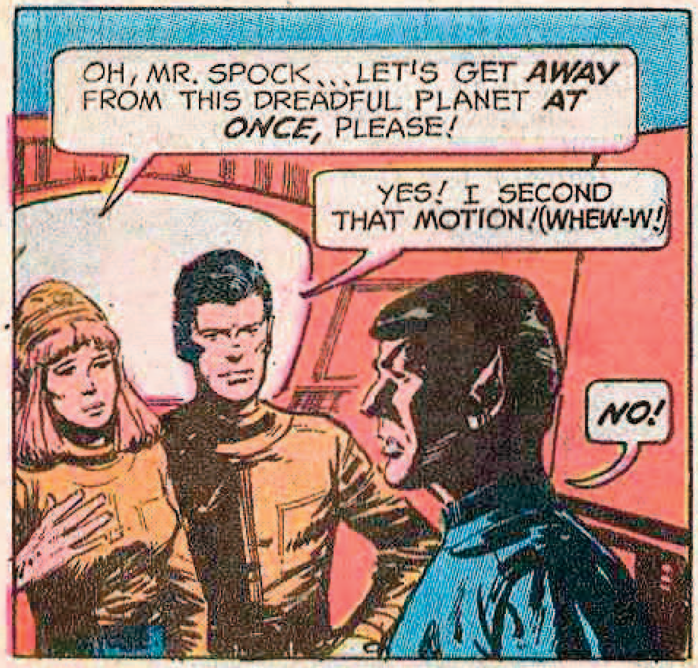

INSTANTLY, AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, A BEAM OF SEARING, PENETRATING LIGHT STREAKS DOWN FROM SPACE! IN AN INFERNO OF ANGUISHED PLANT CRIES, THE THORN FENCE IS VAPORIZED... BUT...
ZHHP!
PUFF!
ARRROOO!
ROOOOO
ZIIIIIKES.......
ON TARGET! B-BUT IS JANICE SAFE?
HURRY! THE OTHER CANNIBAL PLANTS ARE ALIVE... WE'VE GOT TO REACH HER FIRST!

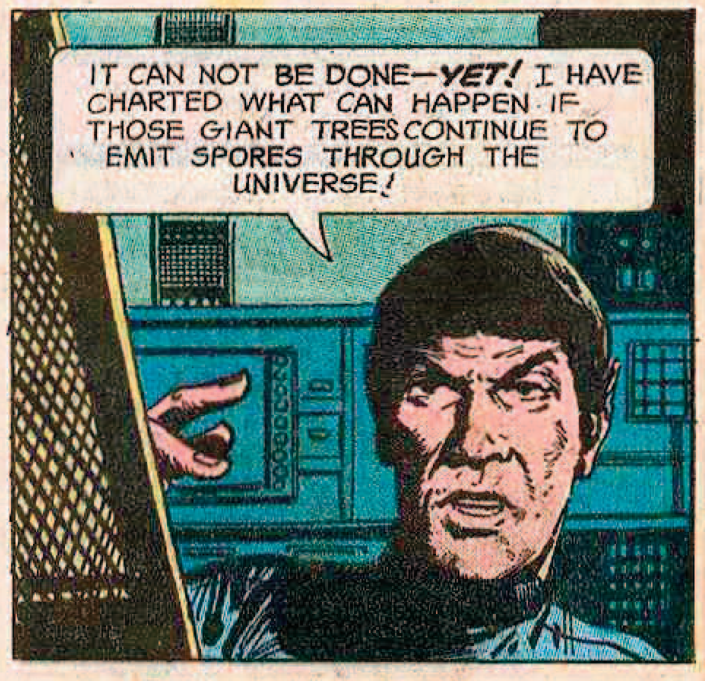

SHE'S DAZED... BUT SHE ISN'T BURNED! *JANICE!*
LOOK OUT! THOSE TUMBLEWEED THINGS ARE *COMING!*
OH-H!
BLAST-RAY THEM OFF! I'LL GET HER OUTSIDE THE BARRIER!
RIGHT!
ZAP!
WOOO!
WOOOOO!
ZAAAP!
BUT OUTSIDE THE ENCLOSURE, SAFETY STILL ELUDES THEM AS...
TH-THE GIANT TREES... SHOOTING OUT SPORE SPRAYS... THEY'RE TRYING TO *POLLUTE* US WITH THEM... LIKE THEY DID *HUNT!*
WE HAVE HER SAFE! MATERIALIZE US ABOARD *AT ONCE,* MR. SPOCK! GIANT TREES ARE TRYING TO *GERMINATE US! HURRY! HURRY!*

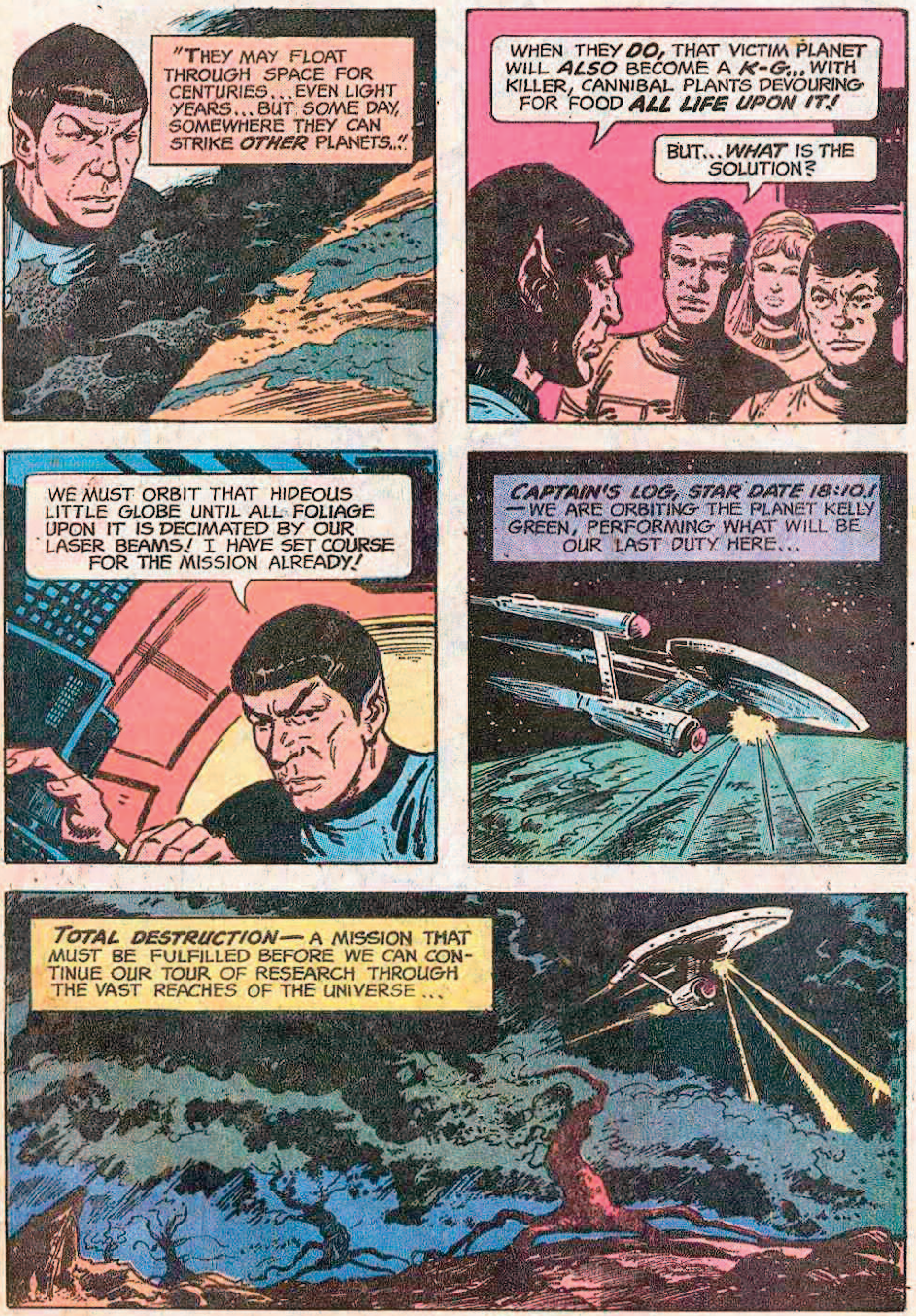

AS THE DOOM SPORES FALL, THE EXPLORING TEAM BEGINS TO FADE...

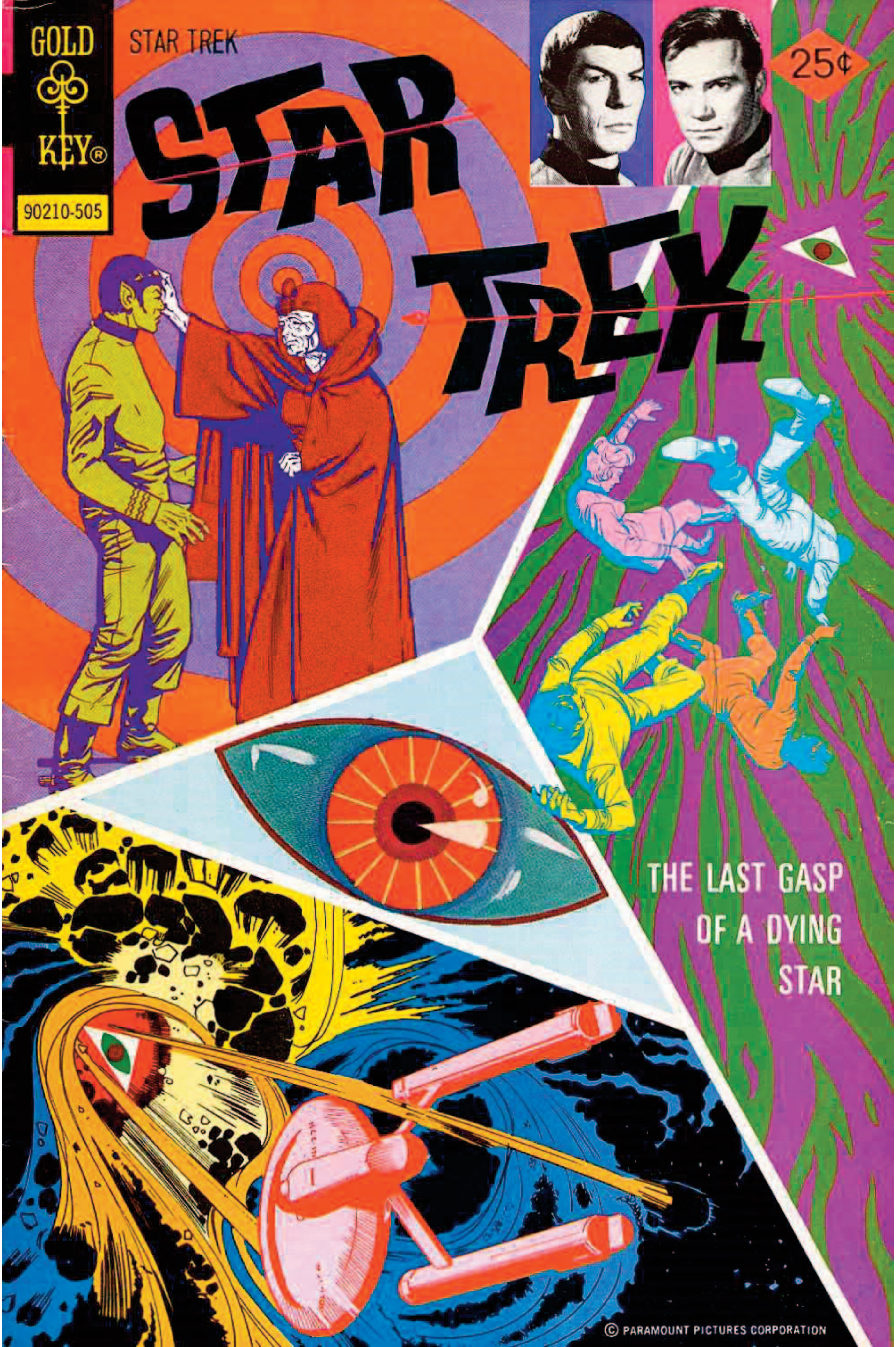

THEN...
OROOO OROOO

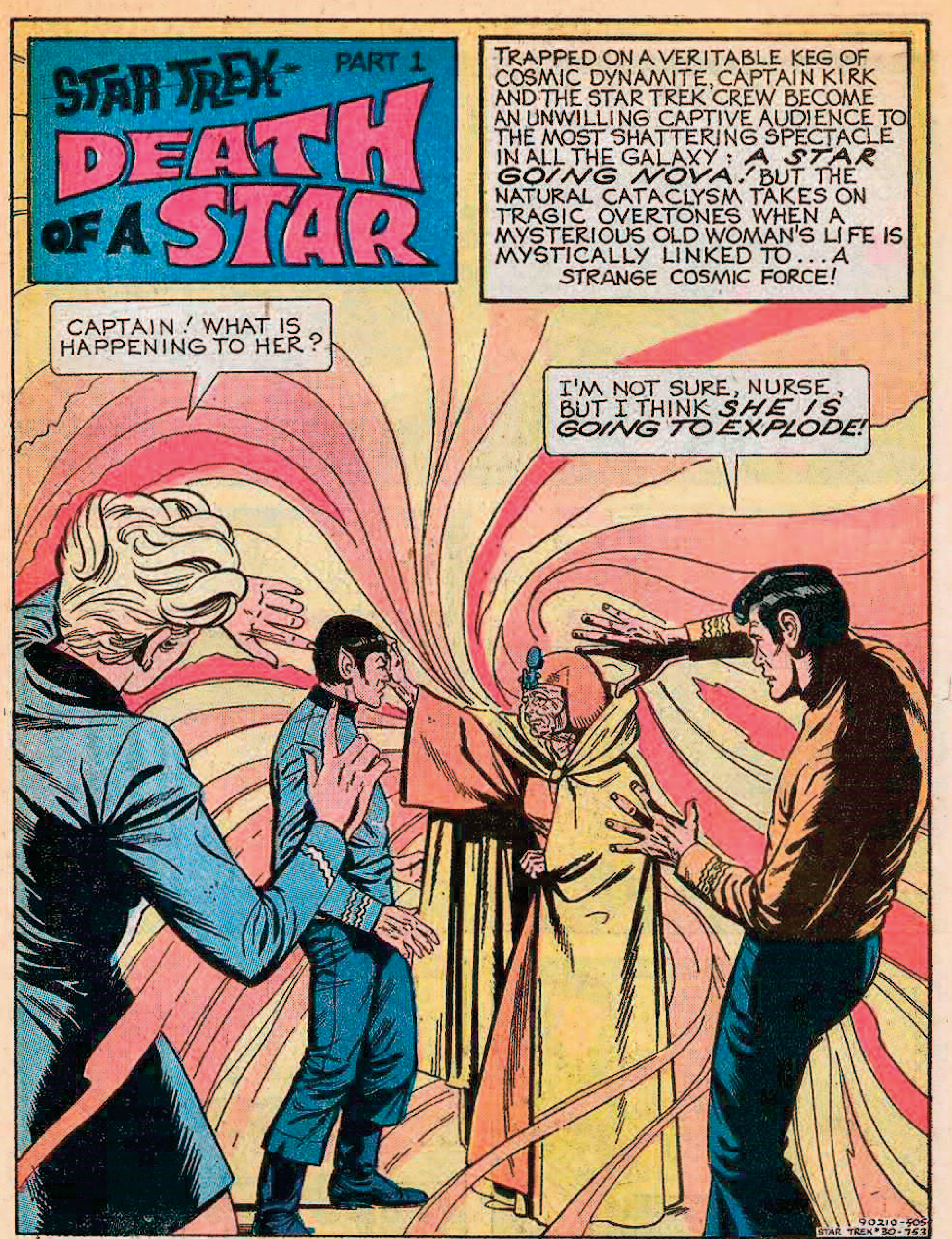

AND ABOARD THE STAR SPACESHIP ENTERPRISE...
TH-THANK A THOUSAND STAR HEAVENS! THEY MADE IT!


OH, MR. SPOCK... LET'S GET AWAY FROM THIS DREADFUL PLANET AT ONCE, PLEASE!
YES! I SECOND THAT MOTION! (WHEW-W!)
NO!


IT CAN NOT BE DONE—YET! I HAVE CHARTED WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF THOSE GIANT TREES CONTINUE TO EMIT SPORES THROUGH THE UNIVERSE!


"THEY MAY FLOAT THROUGH SPACE FOR CENTURIES... EVEN LIGHT YEARS... BUT SOME DAY, SOMEWHERE THEY CAN STRIKE *OTHER* PLANETS...!"
WHEN THEY *DO*, THAT VICTIM PLANET WILL *ALSO* BECOME A *K-G*... WITH KILLER, CANNIBAL PLANTS DEVOURING FOR FOOD *ALL LIFE UPON IT!*
BUT... *WHAT* IS THE SOLUTION?
WE MUST ORBIT THAT HIDEOUS LITTLE GLOBE UNTIL ALL FOLIAGE UPON IT IS DECIMATED BY OUR LASER BEAMS! I HAVE SET COURSE FOR THE MISSION ALREADY!
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 18:10.1 —WE ARE ORBITING THE PLANET KELLY GREEN, PERFORMING WHAT WILL BE OUR LAST DUTY HERE...
TOTAL DESTRUCTION— A MISSION THAT MUST BE FULFILLED BEFORE WE CAN CONTINUE OUR TOUR OF RESEARCH THROUGH THE VAST REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE...


GOLD KEY®
90210-505
STAR TREK
STAR TREK
25¢
THE LAST GASP OF A DYING STAR
© PARAMOUNT PICTURES CORPORATION


STAR TREK PART 1
DEATH OF A STAR
TRAPPED ON A VERITABLE KEG OF COSMIC DYNAMITE, CAPTAIN KIRK AND THE STAR TREK CREW BECOME AN UNWILLING CAPTIVE AUDIENCE TO THE MOST SHATTERING SPECTACLE IN ALL THE GALAXY : *A STAR GOING NOVA!* BUT THE NATURAL CATACLYSM TAKES ON TRAGIC OVERTONES WHEN A MYSTERIOUS OLD WOMAN'S LIFE IS MYSTICALLY LINKED TO . . . A STRANGE COSMIC FORCE!
CAPTAIN! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HER?
I'M NOT SURE, NURSE, BUT I THINK *SHE IS GOING TO EXPLODE!*
90210-505
STAR TREK*30-753

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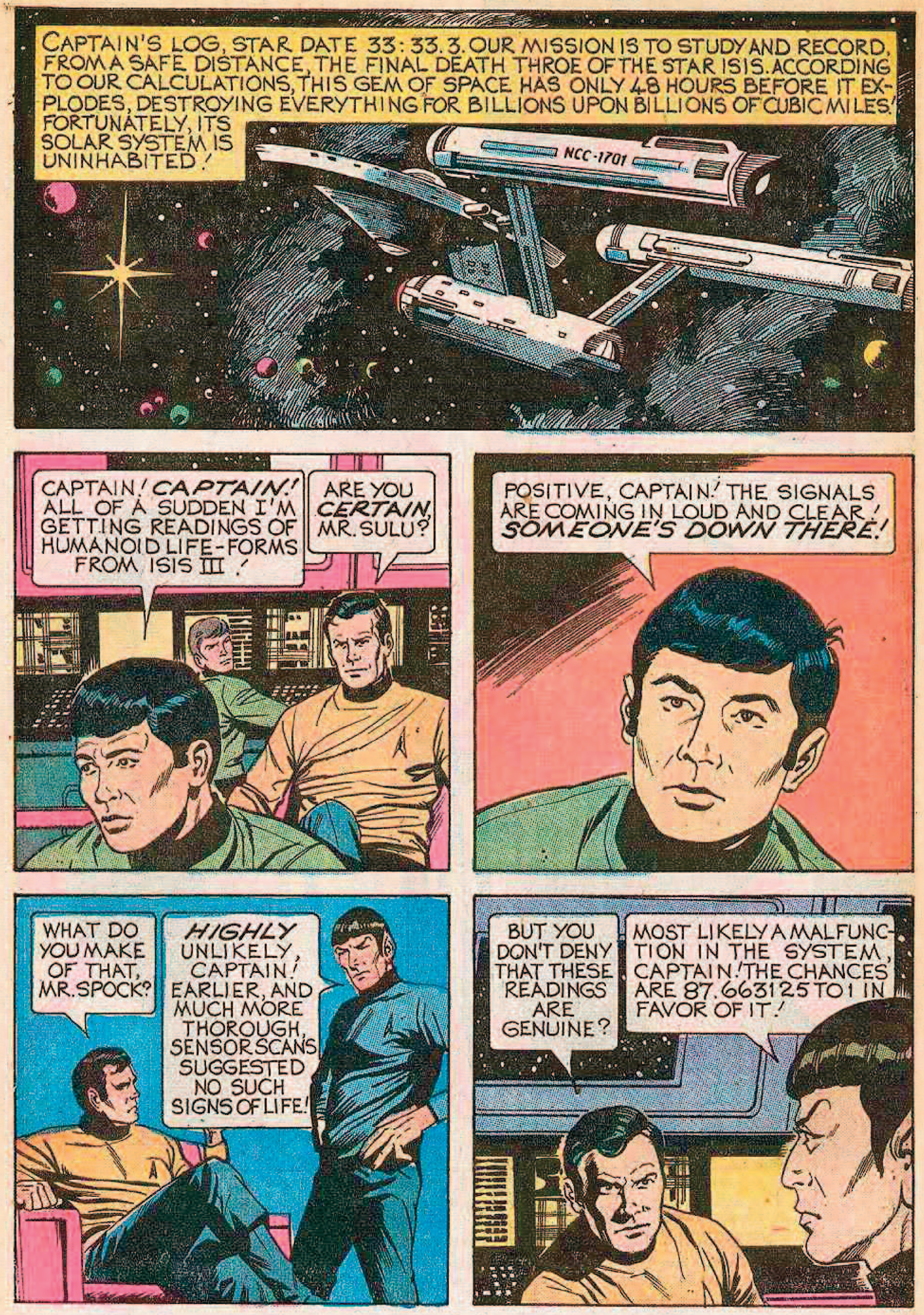
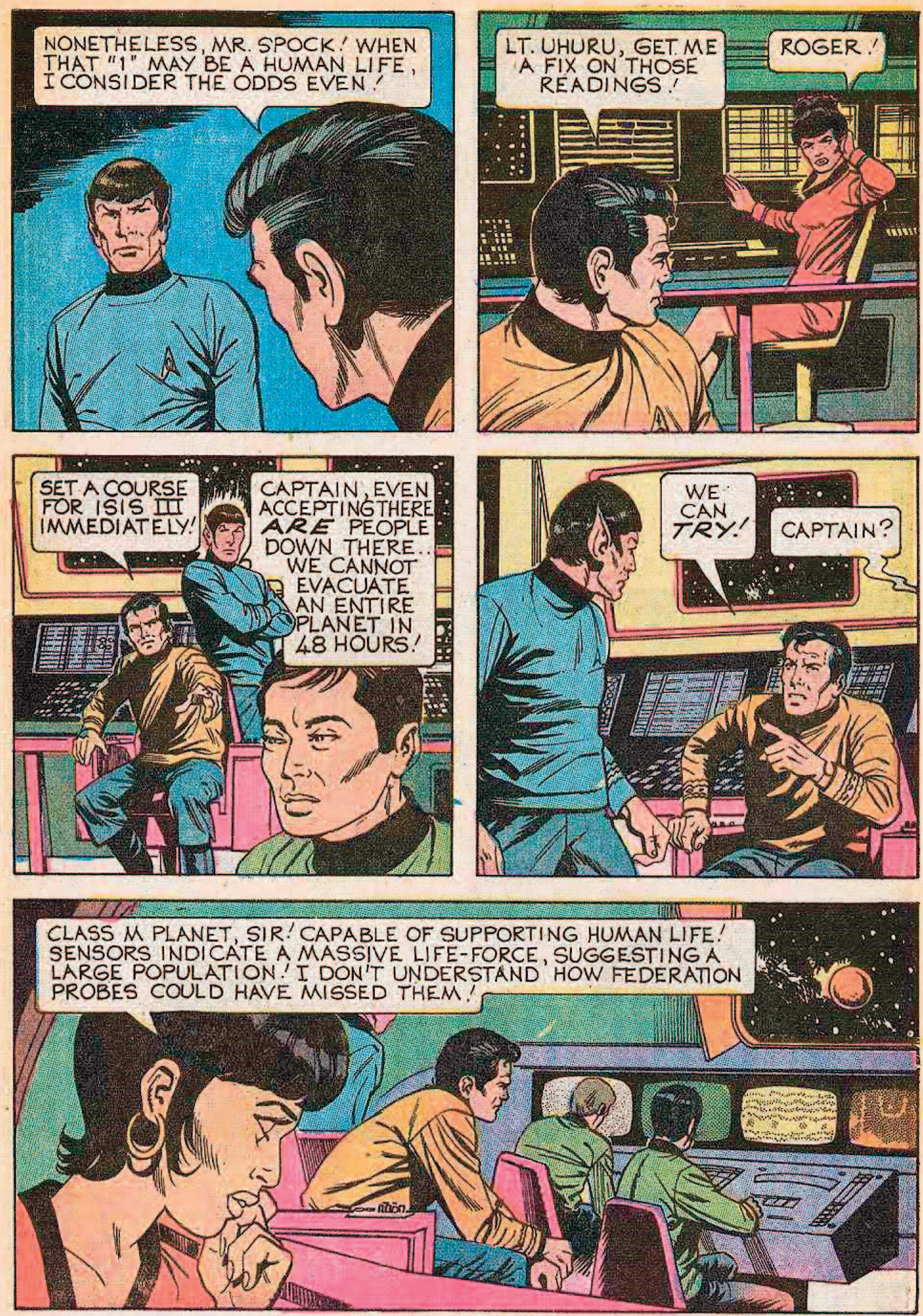
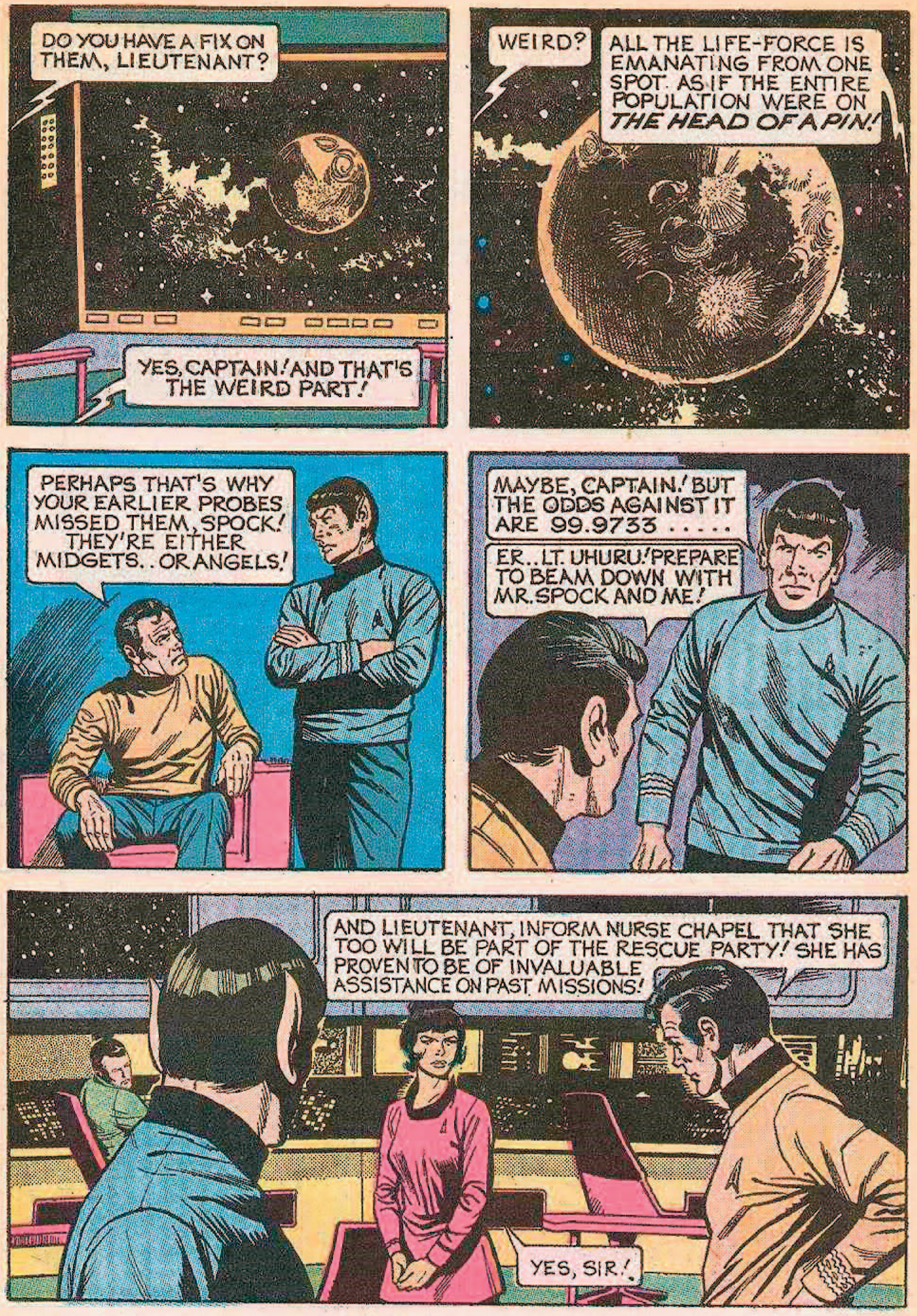
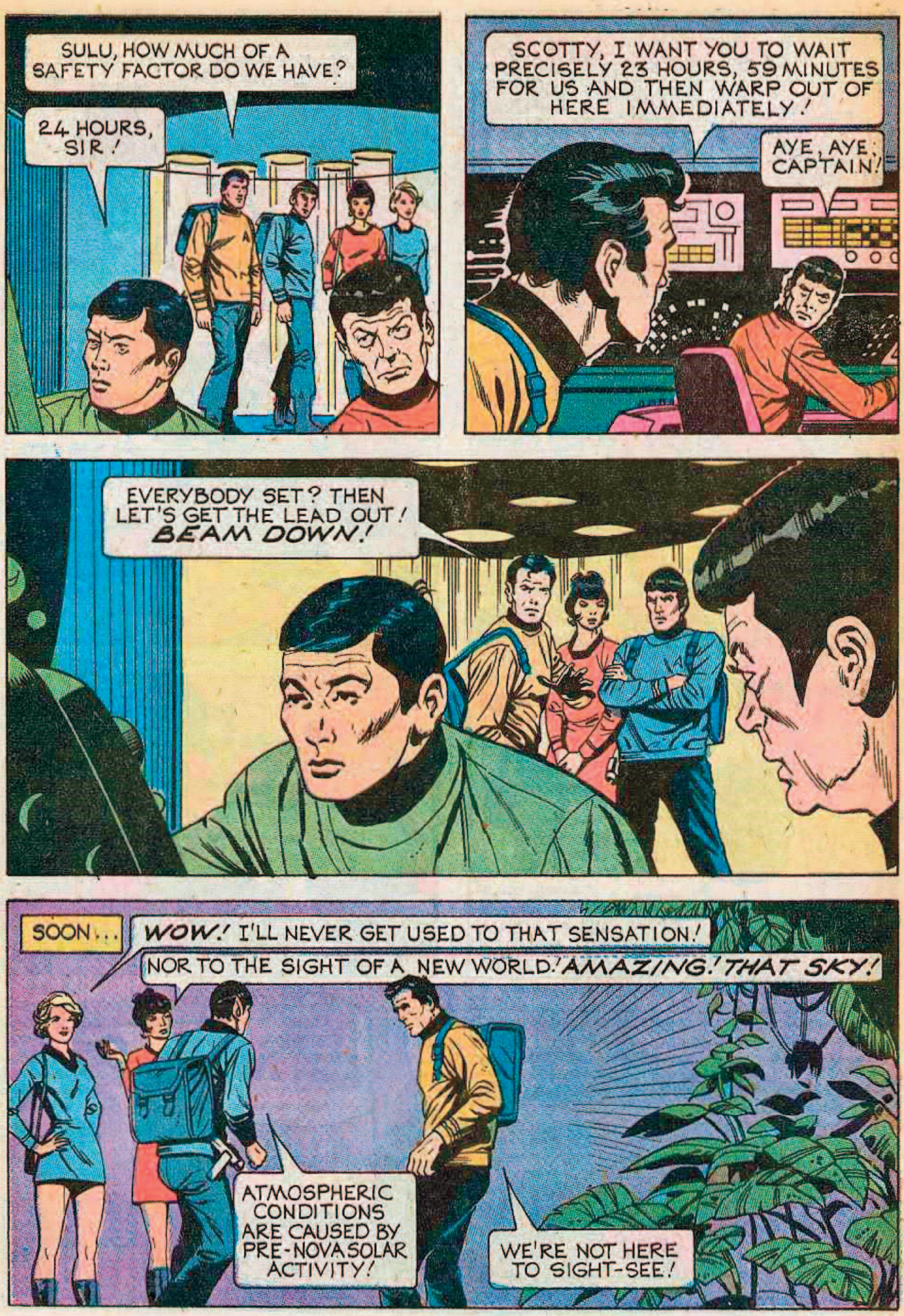
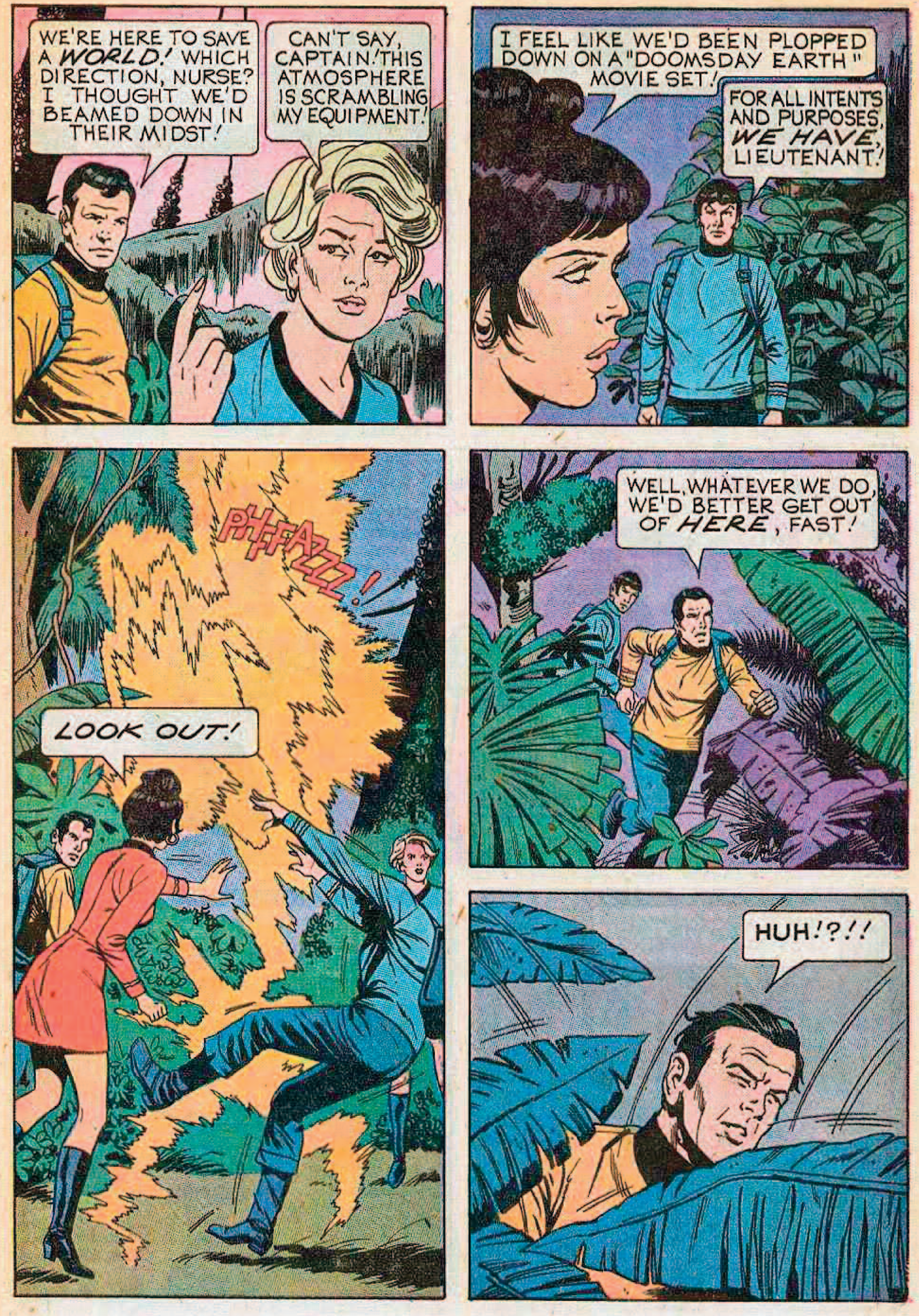
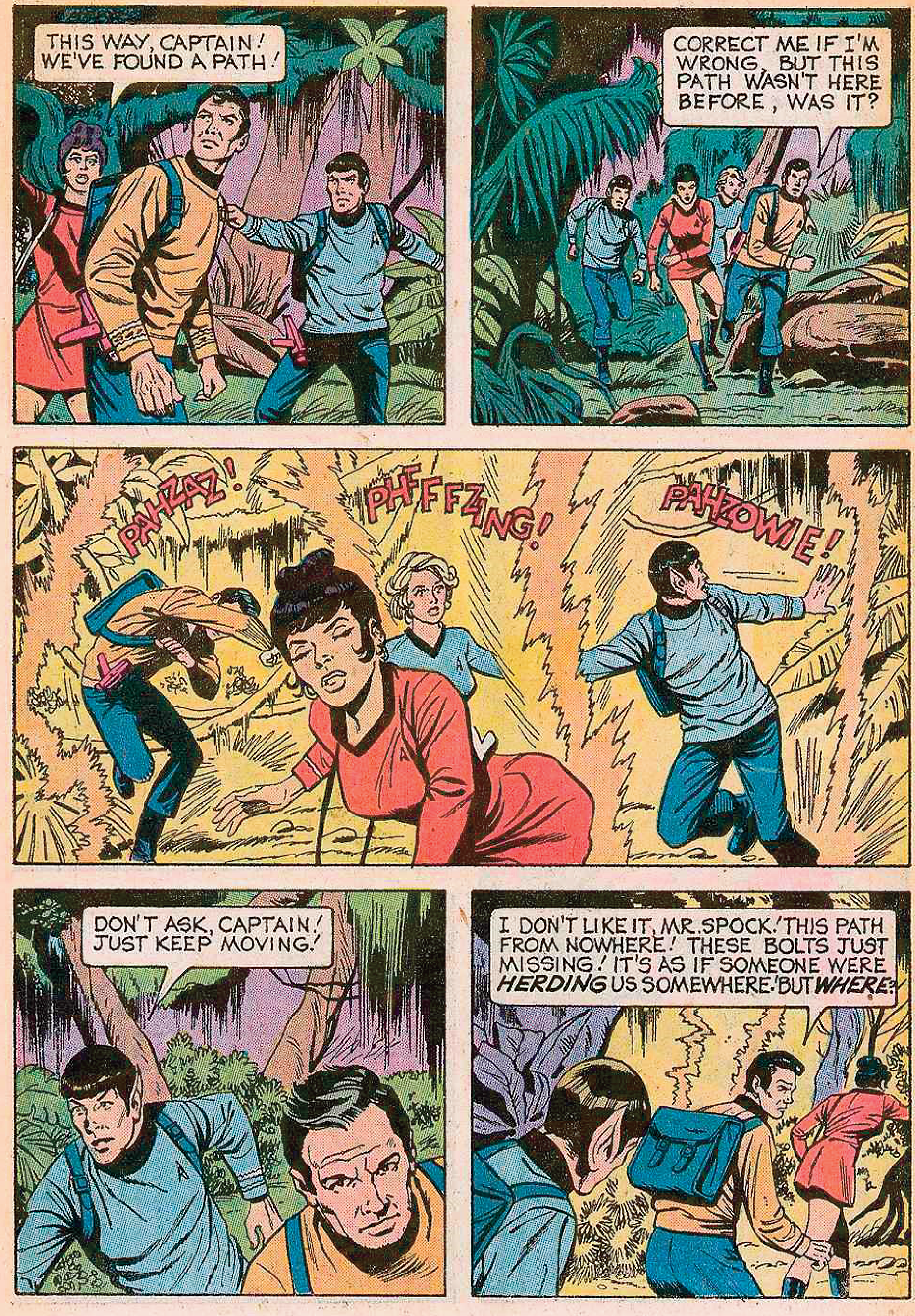

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 33:33.3. OUR MISSION IS TO STUDY AND RECORD, FROM A SAFE DISTANCE, THE FINAL DEATH THROE OF THE STAR ISIS. ACCORDING TO OUR CALCULATIONS, THIS GEM OF SPACE HAS ONLY 48 HOURS BEFORE IT EXPLODES, DESTROYING EVERYTHING FOR BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF CUBIC MILES! FORTUNATELY, ITS SOLAR SYSTEM IS UNINHABITED!
NCC-1701
CAPTAIN! *CAPTAIN!* ALL OF A SUDDEN I'M GETTING READINGS OF HUMANOID LIFE-FORMS FROM ISIS III!
ARE YOU *CERTAIN,* MR. SULU?
POSITIVE, CAPTAIN! THE SIGNALS ARE COMING IN LOUD AND CLEAR! *SOMEONE'S DOWN THERE!*
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, MR. SPOCK?
HIGHLY UNLIKELY, CAPTAIN! EARLIER, AND MUCH MORE THOROUGH, SENSOR SCANS SUGGESTED NO SUCH SIGNS OF LIFE!
BUT YOU DON'T DENY THAT THESE READINGS ARE GENUINE?
MOST LIKELY A MALFUNCTION IN THE SYSTEM, CAPTAIN! THE CHANCES ARE 87.663125 TO 1 IN FAVOR OF IT!

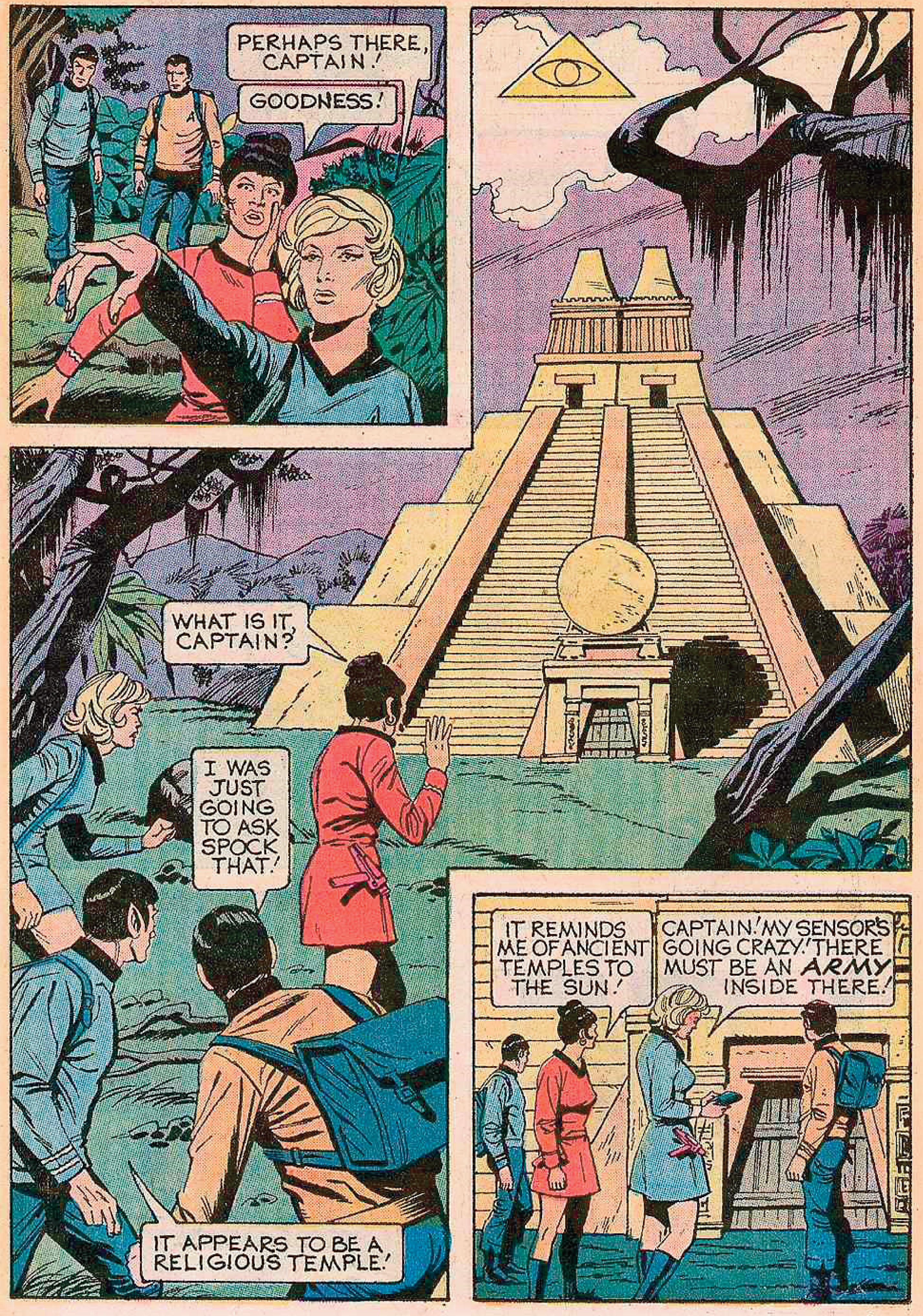

NONETHELESS, MR. SPOCK! WHEN THAT "1" MAY BE A HUMAN LIFE, I CONSIDER THE ODDS EVEN!
LT. UHURU, GET ME A FIX ON THOSE READINGS!
ROGER!
SET A COURSE FOR ISIS III IMMEDIATELY!
CAPTAIN, EVEN ACCEPTING THERE *ARE* PEOPLE DOWN THERE.. WE CANNOT EVACUATE AN ENTIRE PLANET IN 48 HOURS!
WE CAN *TRY!*
CAPTAIN?
CLASS M PLANET, SIR! CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING HUMAN LIFE! SENSORS INDICATE A MASSIVE LIFE-FORCE, SUGGESTING A LARGE POPULATION! I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW FEDERATION PROBES COULD HAVE MISSED THEM!

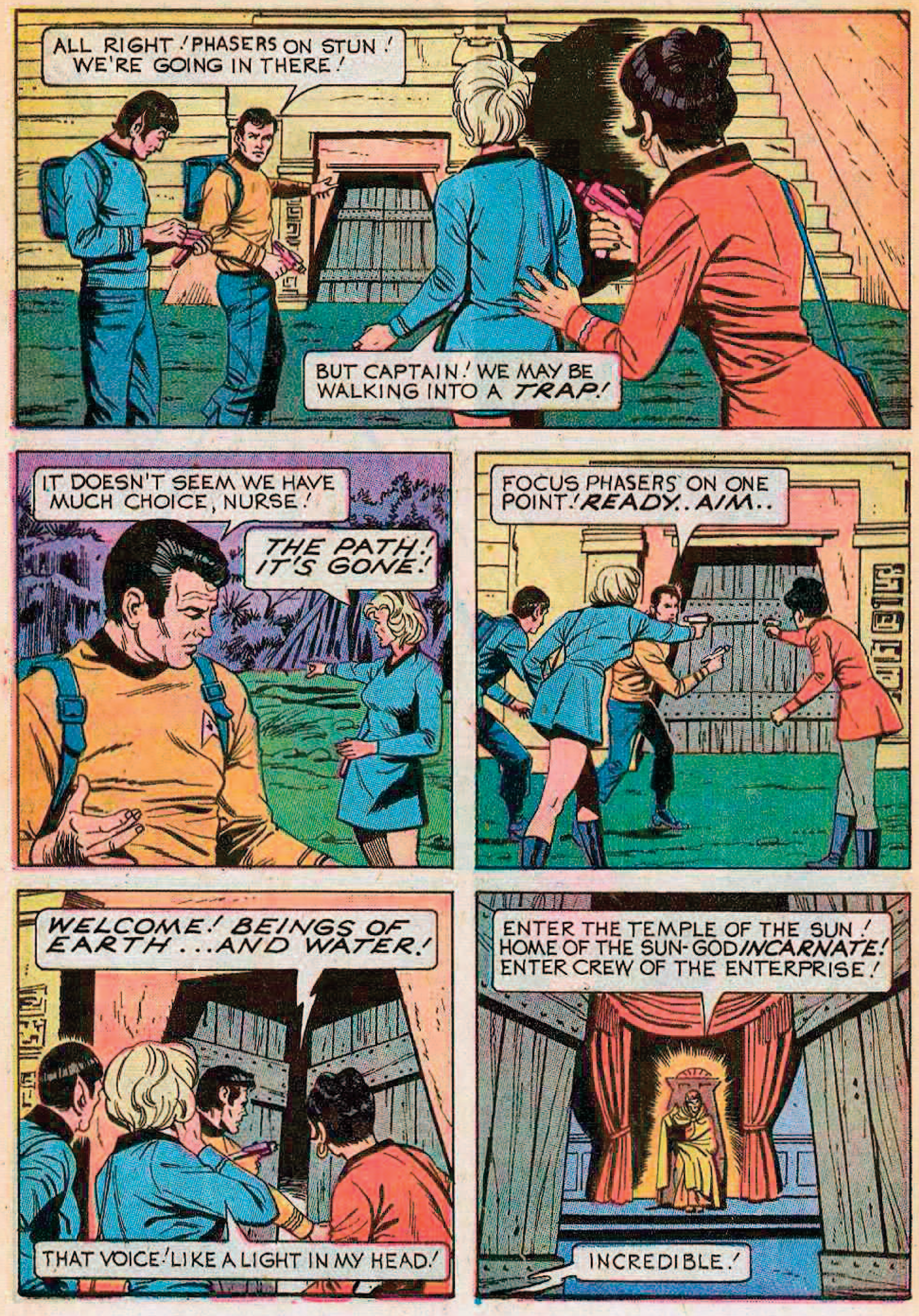

DO YOU HAVE A FIX ON THEM, LIEUTENANT?
YES, CAPTAIN! AND THAT'S THE WEIRD PART!
WEIRD?
ALL THE LIFE-FORCE IS EMANATING FROM ONE SPOT. AS IF THE ENTIRE POPULATION WERE ON *THE HEAD OF A PIN!*
PERHAPS THAT'S WHY YOUR EARLIER PROBES MISSED THEM, SPOCK! THEY'RE EITHER MIDGETS.. OR ANGELS!
MAYBE, CAPTAIN! BUT THE ODDS AGAINST IT ARE 99.9733 . . . .
ER.. LT. UHURU! PREPARE TO BEAM DOWN WITH MR. SPOCK AND ME!
AND LIEUTENANT, INFORM NURSE CHAPEL THAT SHE TOO WILL BE PART OF THE RESCUE PARTY! SHE HAS PROVEN TO BE OF INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE ON PAST MISSIONS!
YES, SIR!

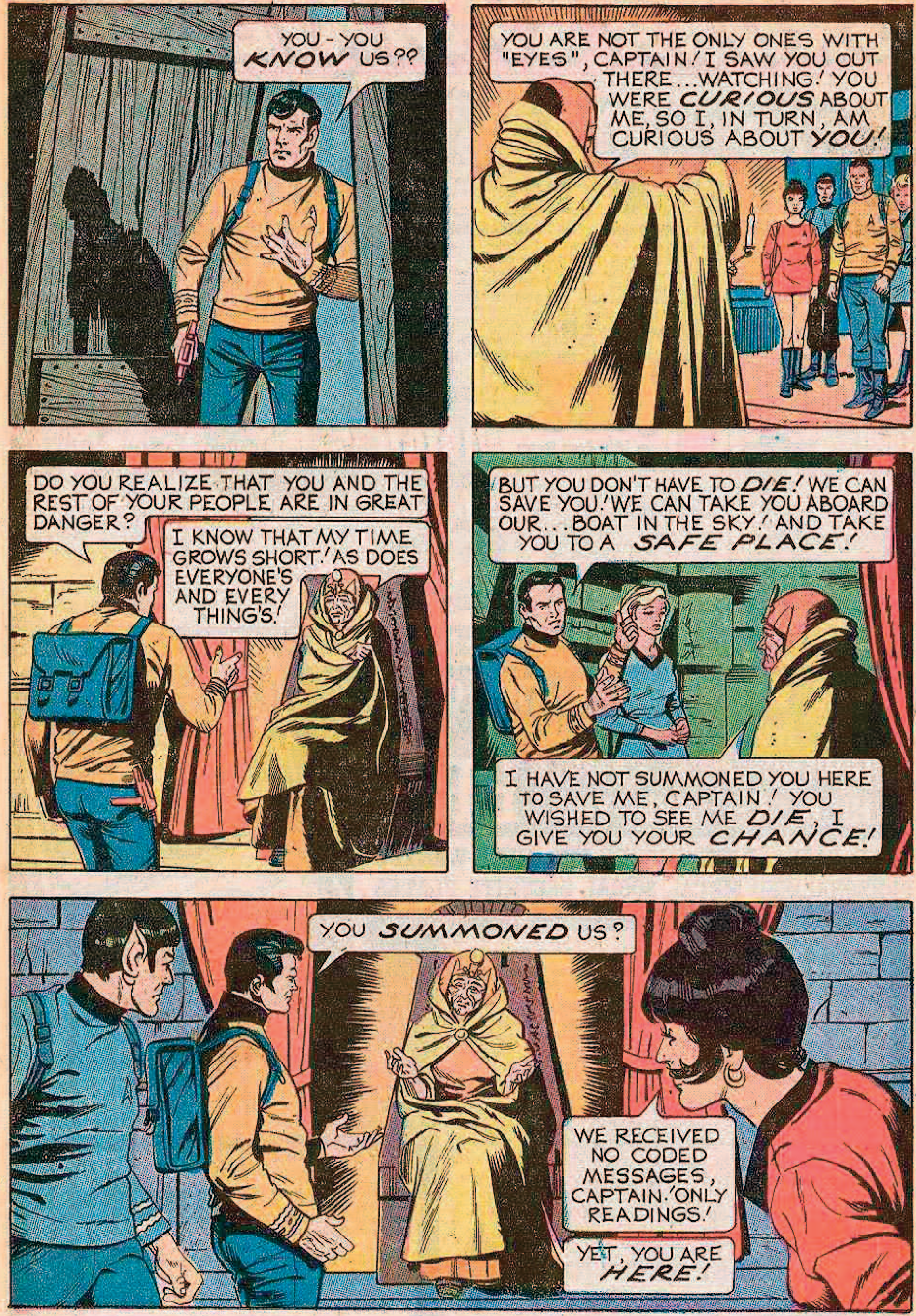

SULU, HOW MUCH OF A SAFETY FACTOR DO WE HAVE?
24 HOURS, SIR!
SCOTTY, I WANT YOU TO WAIT PRECISELY 23 HOURS, 59 MINUTES FOR US AND THEN WARP OUT OF HERE IMMEDIATELY!
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN!
EVERYBODY SET? THEN LET'S GET THE LEAD OUT! *BEAM DOWN!*
SOON...
WOW! I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THAT SENSATION!
NOR TO THE SIGHT OF A NEW WORLD! *AMAZING! THAT SKY!*
ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS ARE CAUSED BY PRE-NOVA SOLAR ACTIVITY!
WE'RE NOT HERE TO SIGHT-SEE!

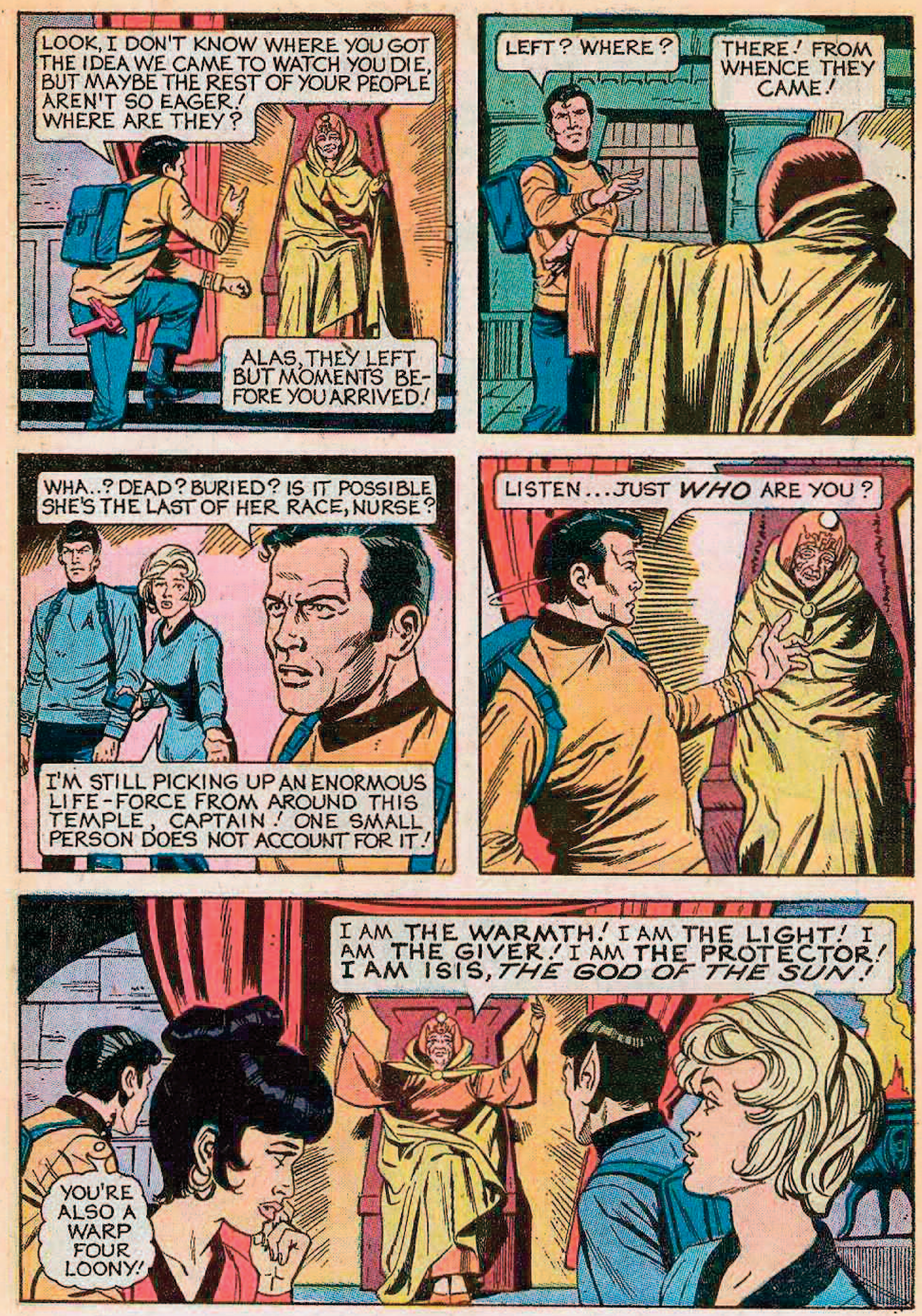

WE'RE HERE TO SAVE A *WORLD!* WHICH DIRECTION, NURSE? I THOUGHT WE'D BEAMED DOWN IN THEIR MIDST!
CAN'T SAY, CAPTAIN! THIS ATMOSPHERE IS SCRAMBLING MY EQUIPMENT!
I FEEL LIKE WE'D BEEN PLOPPED DOWN ON A "DOOMSDAY EARTH" MOVIE SET!
FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, *WE HAVE*, LIEUTENANT!
PHFFAZZZ!
LOOK OUT!
WELL, WHATEVER WE DO, WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF *HERE*, FAST!
HUH!?!!

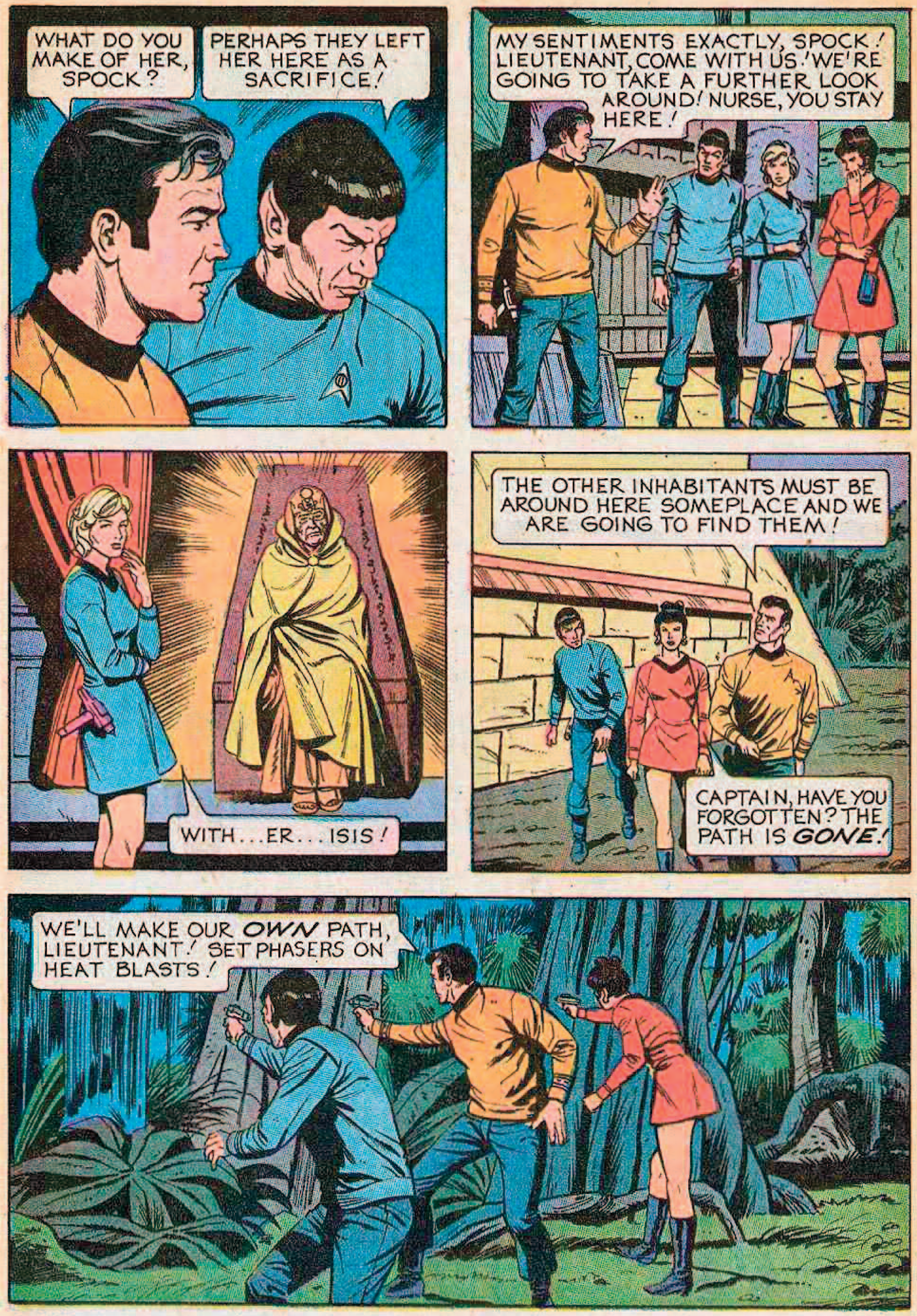

THIS WAY, CAPTAIN! WE'VE FOUND A PATH!
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT THIS PATH WASN'T HERE BEFORE, WAS IT?
PAHZAZ!
PHFFFZING!
PAHZOWIE!
DON'T ASK, CAPTAIN! JUST KEEP MOVING!
I DON'T LIKE IT, MR. SPOCK! THIS PATH FROM NOWHERE! THESE BOLTS JUST MISSING! IT'S AS IF SOMEONE WERE *HERDING* US SOMEWHERE! BUT *WHERE*?

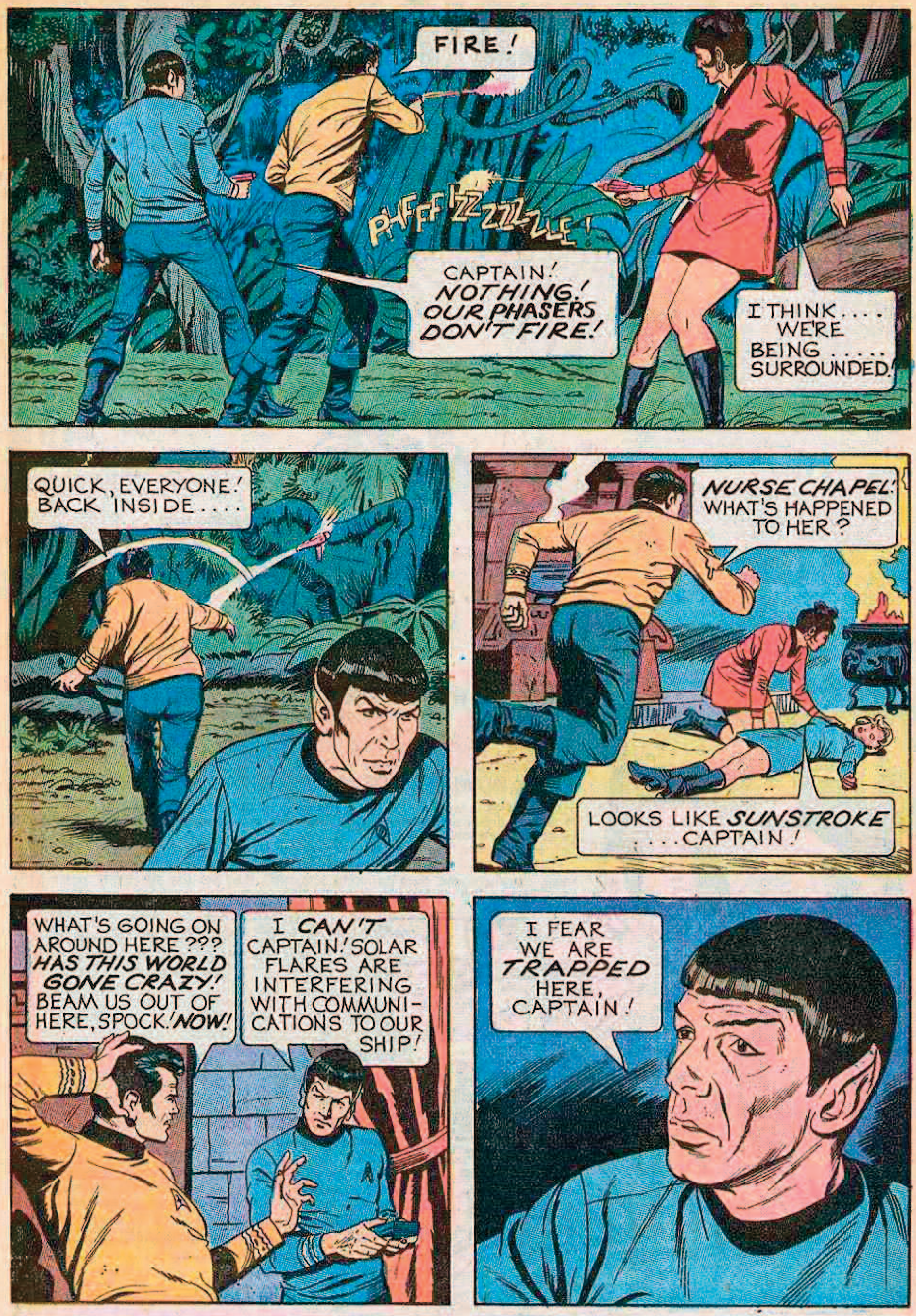

PERHAPS THERE, CAPTAIN!
GOODNESS!
WHAT IS IT, CAPTAIN?
I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK SPOCK THAT!
IT APPEARS TO BE A RELIGIOUS TEMPLE!
IT REMINDS ME OF ANCIENT TEMPLES TO THE SUN!
CAPTAIN! MY SENSOR'S GOING CRAZY! THERE MUST BE AN ARMY INSIDE THERE!

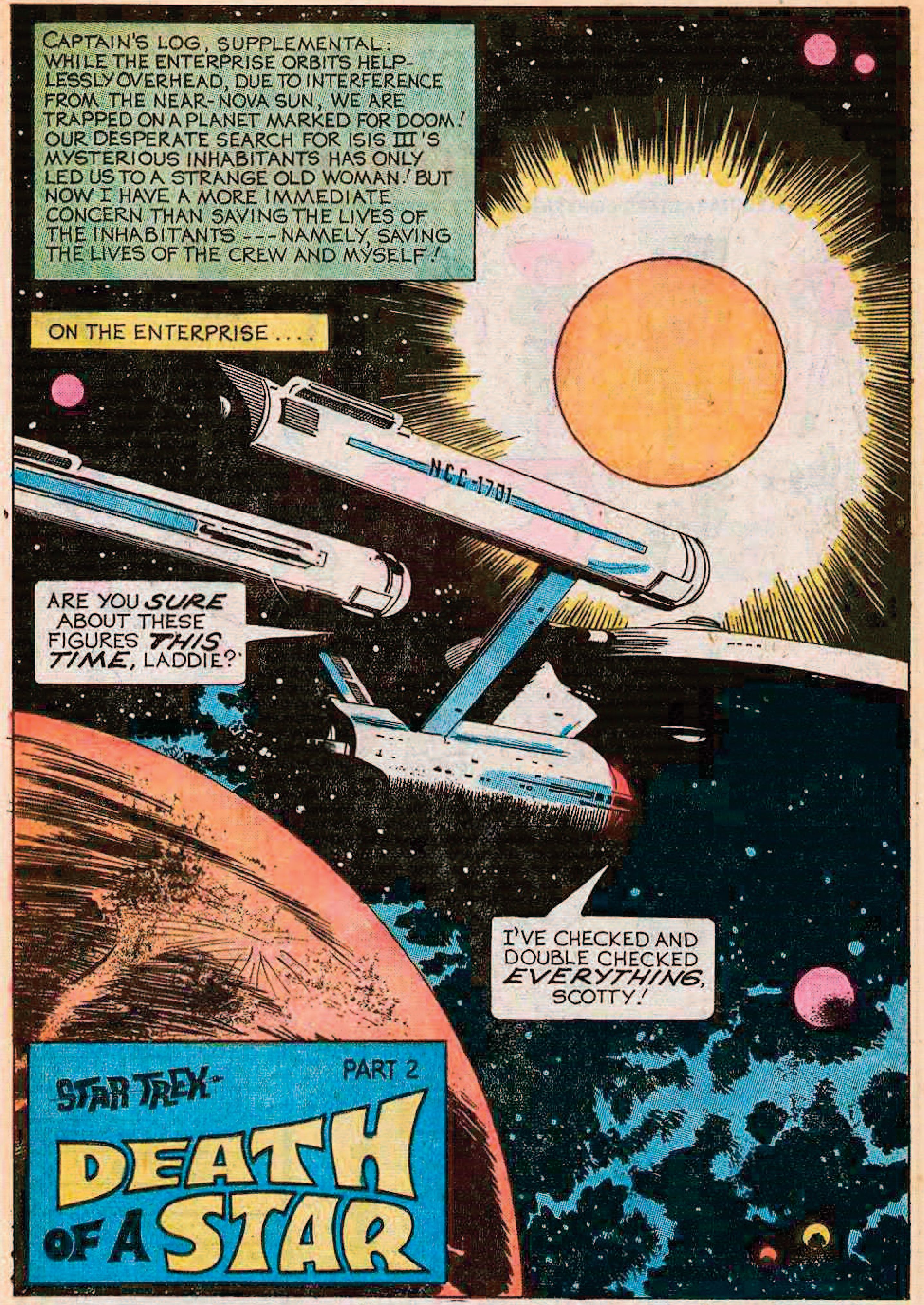

ALL RIGHT! PHASERS ON STUN! WE'RE GOING IN THERE!
BUT CAPTAIN! WE MAY BE WALKING INTO A *TRAP!*
IT DOESN'T SEEM WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE, NURSE!
THE PATH! IT'S GONE!
FOCUS PHASERS ON ONE POINT! *READY.. AIM..*
WELCOME! BEINGS OF EARTH ...AND WATER!
THAT VOICE! LIKE A LIGHT IN MY HEAD!
ENTER THE TEMPLE OF THE SUN! HOME OF THE SUN-GOD *INCARNATE!* ENTER CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE!
INCREDIBLE!

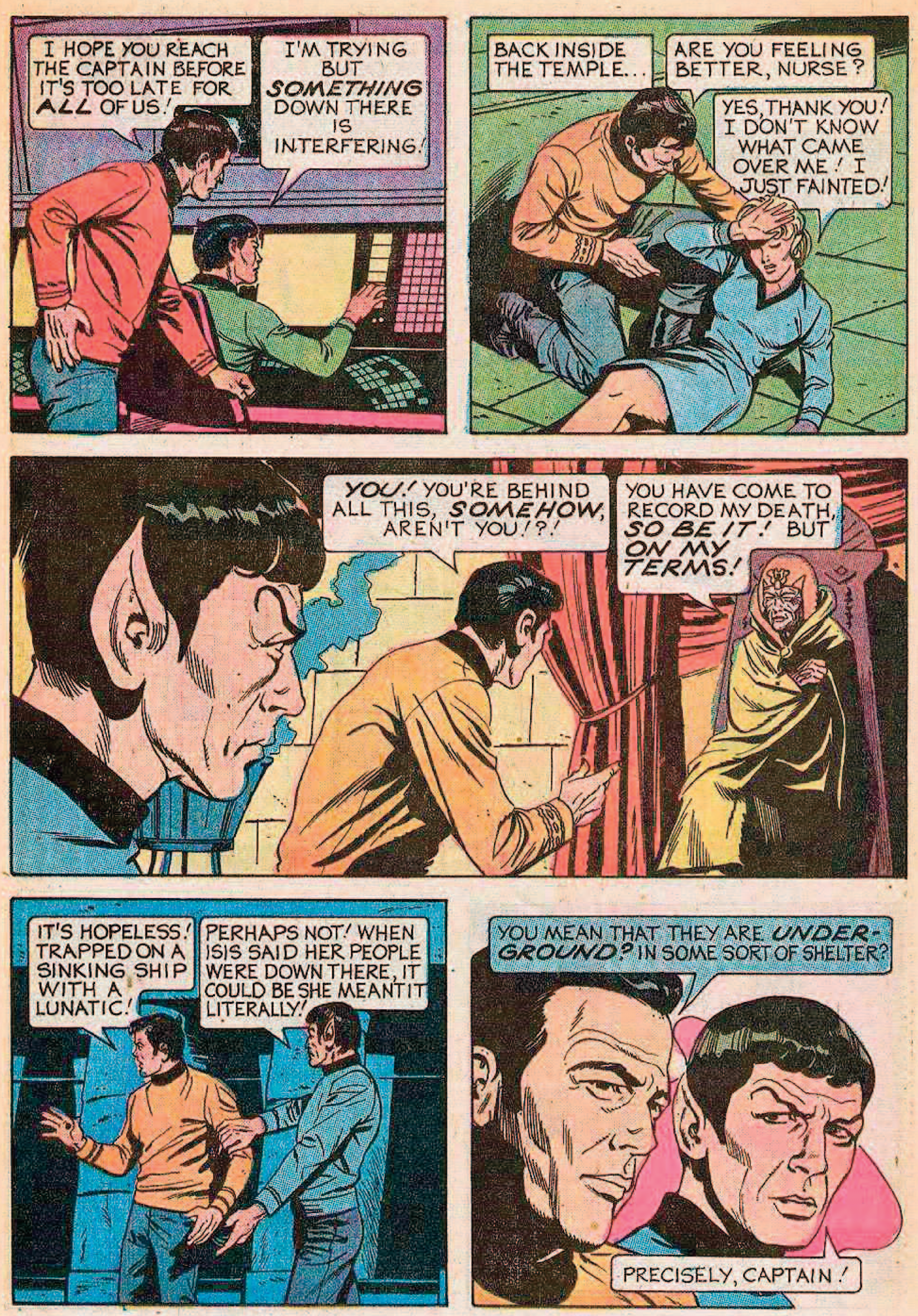

YOU - YOU *KNOW* US??
YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WITH "EYES", CAPTAIN! I SAW YOU OUT THERE...WATCHING! YOU WERE *CURIOUS* ABOUT ME, SO I, IN TURN, AM CURIOUS ABOUT *YOU!*
DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR PEOPLE ARE IN GREAT DANGER?
I KNOW THAT MY TIME GROWS SHORT! AS DOES EVERYONE'S AND EVERY THING'S!
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO *DIE!* WE CAN SAVE YOU! WE CAN TAKE YOU ABOARD OUR...BOAT IN THE SKY! AND TAKE YOU TO A *SAFE PLACE!*
I HAVE NOT SUMMONED YOU HERE TO SAVE ME, CAPTAIN! YOU WISHED TO SEE ME *DIE*, I GIVE YOU YOUR *CHANCE!*
YOU *SUMMONED* US?
WE RECEIVED NO CODED MESSAGES, CAPTAIN! ONLY READINGS!
YET, YOU ARE *HERE!*

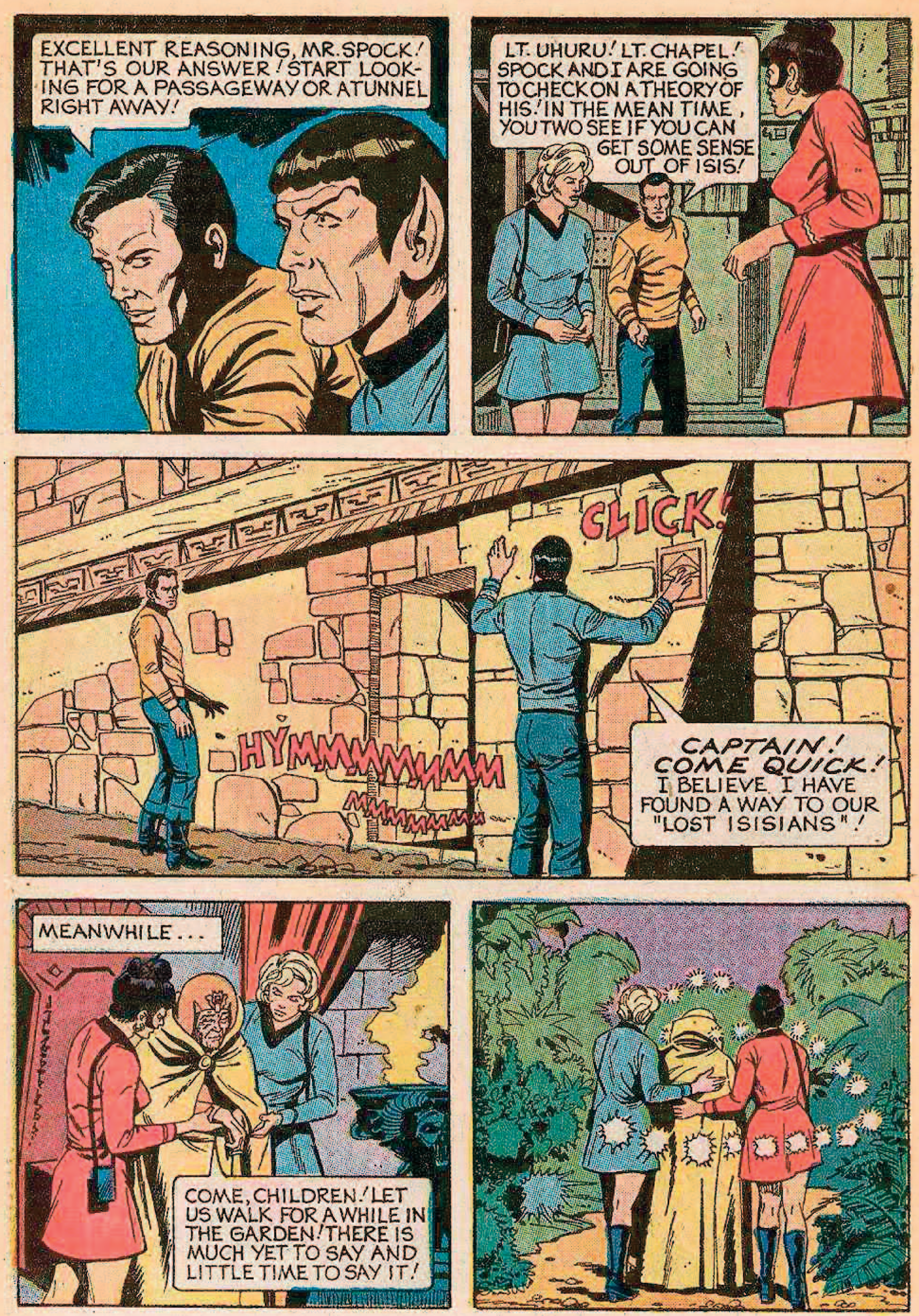

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THE IDEA WE CAME TO WATCH YOU DIE, BUT MAYBE THE REST OF YOUR PEOPLE AREN'T SO EAGER! WHERE ARE THEY?
ALAS, THEY LEFT BUT MOMENTS BEFORE YOU ARRIVED!
LEFT? WHERE?
THERE! FROM WHENCE THEY CAME!
WHA..? DEAD? BURIED? IS IT POSSIBLE SHE'S THE LAST OF HER RACE, NURSE?
I'M STILL PICKING UP AN ENORMOUS LIFE-FORCE FROM AROUND THIS TEMPLE, CAPTAIN! ONE SMALL PERSON DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR IT!
LISTEN... JUST ***WHO*** ARE YOU?
I AM **THE WARMTH**! I AM **THE LIGHT**! I AM **THE GIVER**! I AM **THE PROTECTOR**! **I AM ISIS,** ***THE GOD OF THE SUN!***
YOU'RE ALSO A WARP FOUR LOONY!

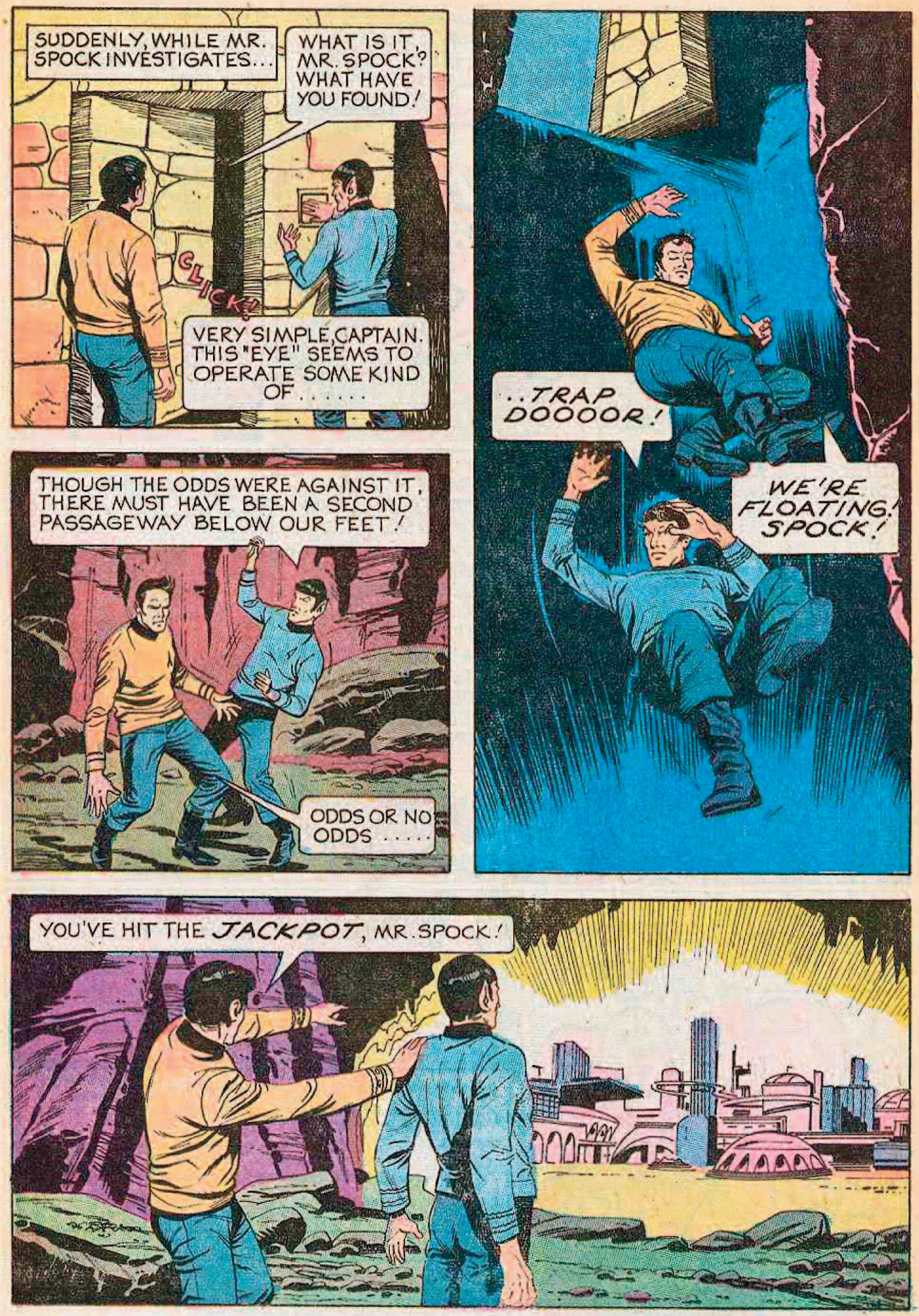

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF HER, SPOCK?
PERHAPS THEY LEFT HER HERE AS A SACRIFICE!
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY, SPOCK! LIEUTENANT, COME WITH US! WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A FURTHER LOOK AROUND! NURSE, YOU STAY HERE!
WITH...ER...ISIS!
THE OTHER INHABITANTS MUST BE AROUND HERE SOMEPLACE AND WE ARE GOING TO FIND THEM!
CAPTAIN, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? THE PATH IS *GONE*!
WE'LL MAKE OUR *OWN* PATH, LIEUTENANT! SET PHASERS ON HEAT BLASTS!

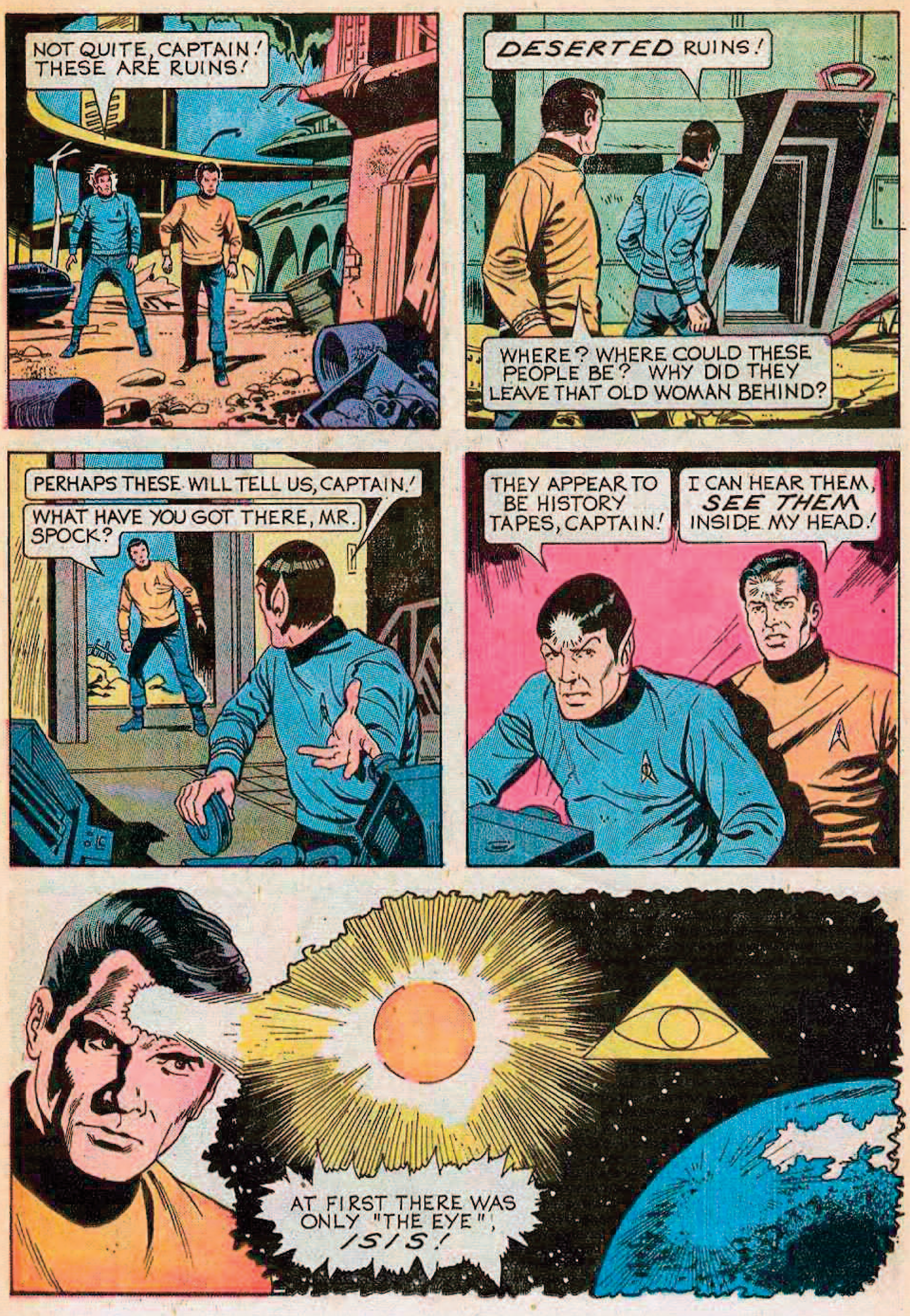

FIRE!
PHFFFIZZZZZLE!
CAPTAIN! NOTHING! OUR PHASERS DON'T FIRE!
I THINK.... WE'RE BEING..... SURROUNDED!
QUICK, EVERYONE! BACK INSIDE....
NURSE CHAPEL! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER?
LOOKS LIKE SUNSTROKE ...CAPTAIN!
WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE??? HAS THIS WORLD GONE CRAZY! BEAM US OUT OF HERE, SPOCK! NOW!
I CAN'T CAPTAIN! SOLAR FLARES ARE INTERFERING WITH COMMUNICATIONS TO OUR SHIP!
I FEAR WE ARE TRAPPED HERE, CAPTAIN!

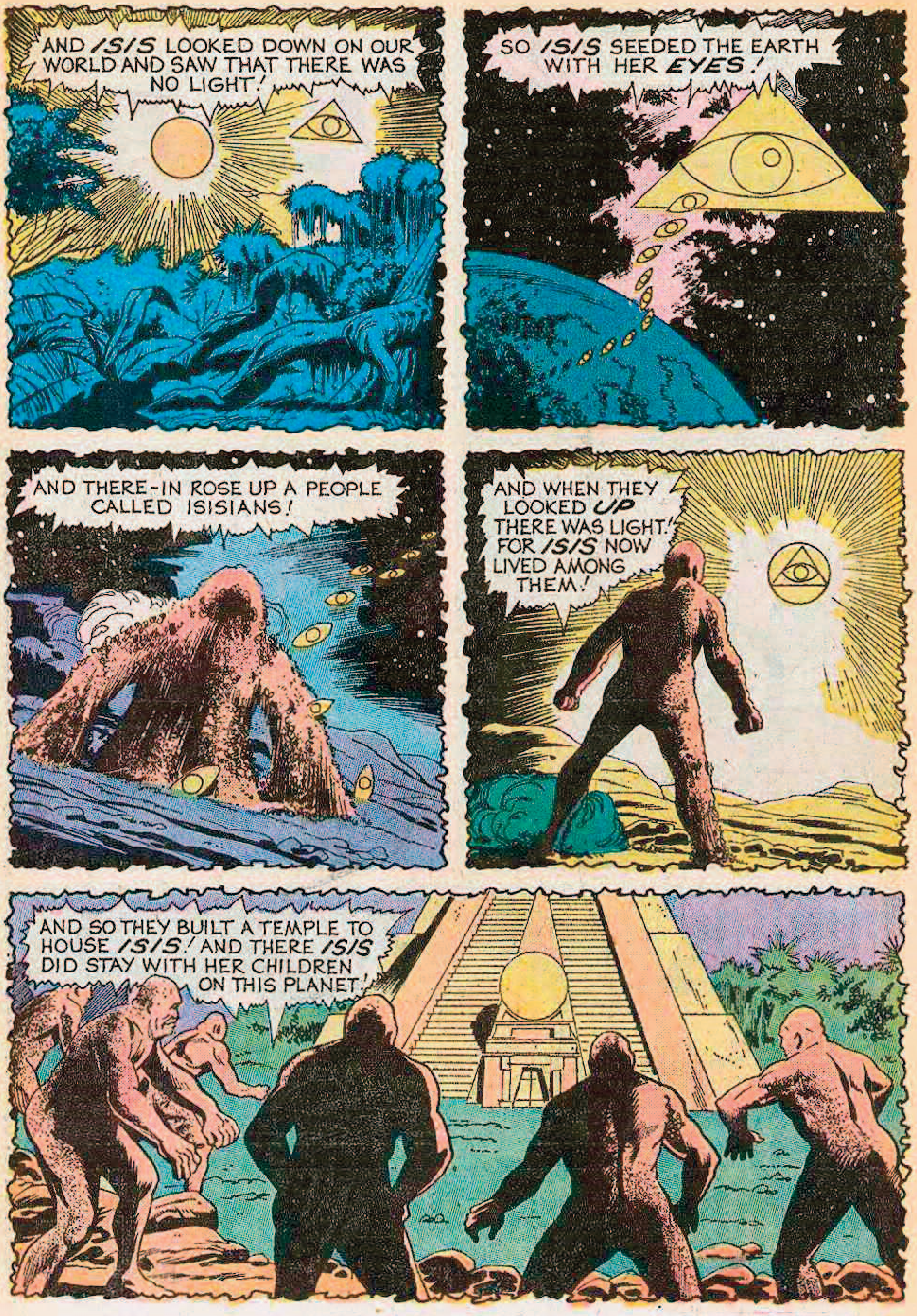

CAPTAIN'S LOG, SUPPLEMENTAL: WHILE THE ENTERPRISE ORBITS HELPLESSLY OVERHEAD, DUE TO INTERFERENCE FROM THE NEAR-NOVA SUN, WE ARE TRAPPED ON A PLANET MARKED FOR DOOM! OUR DESPERATE SEARCH FOR ISIS III'S MYSTERIOUS INHABITANTS HAS ONLY LED US TO A STRANGE OLD WOMAN! BUT NOW I HAVE A MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN THAN SAVING THE LIVES OF THE INHABITANTS --- NAMELY, SAVING THE LIVES OF THE CREW AND MYSELF!
ON THE ENTERPRISE....
NCC-1701
ARE YOU *SURE* ABOUT THESE FIGURES *THIS TIME*, LADDIE?
I'VE CHECKED AND DOUBLE CHECKED *EVERYTHING*, SCOTTY!
PART 2
STAR TREK-
DEATH OF A STAR

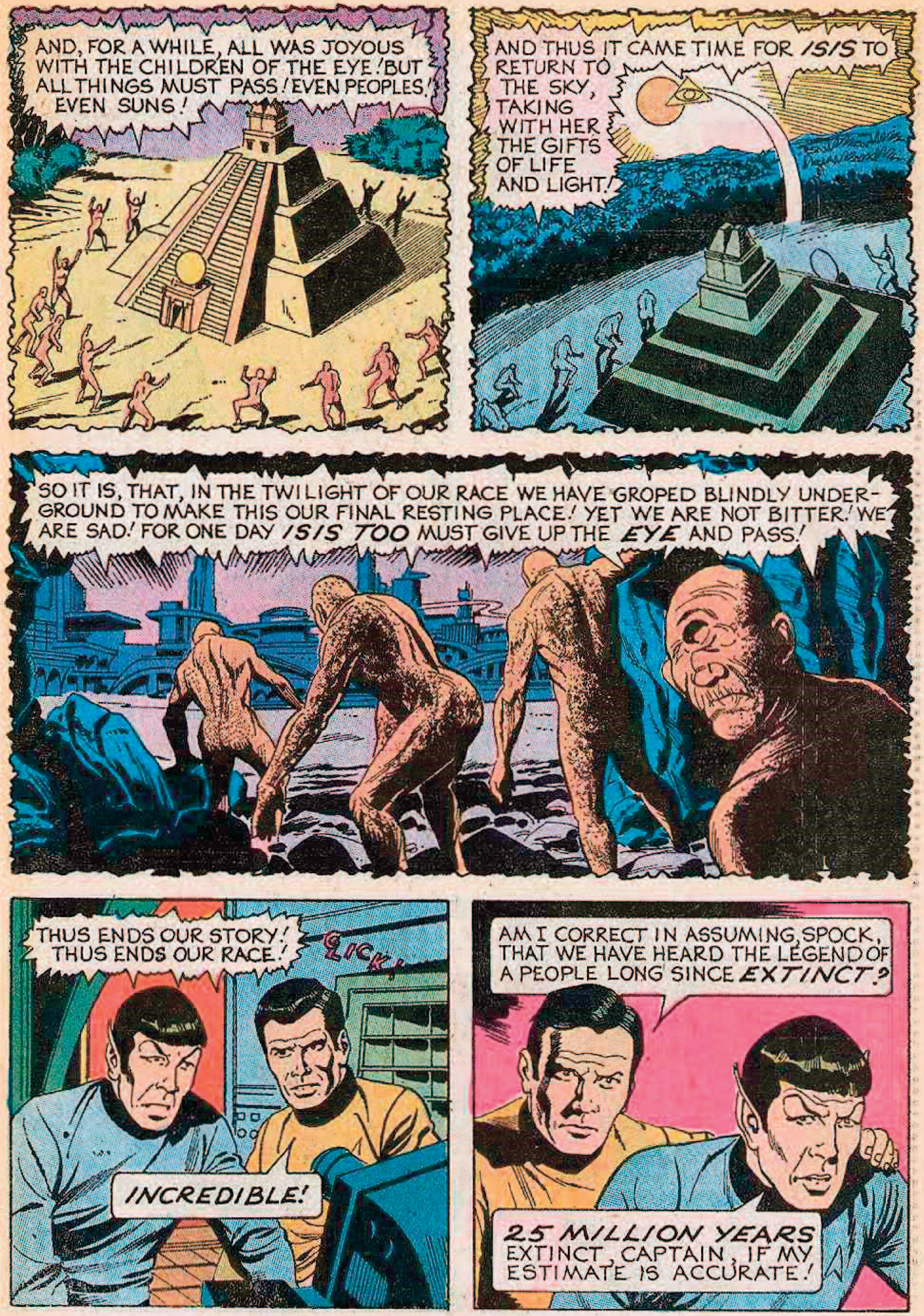

I HOPE YOU REACH THE CAPTAIN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE FOR *ALL* OF US!
I'M TRYING BUT *SOMETHING* DOWN THERE IS INTERFERING!
BACK INSIDE THE TEMPLE...
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER, NURSE?
YES, THANK YOU! I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME! I JUST FAINTED!
YOU! YOU'RE BEHIND ALL THIS, *SOMEHOW*, AREN'T YOU!?!
YOU HAVE COME TO RECORD MY DEATH, *SO BE IT!* BUT *ON MY TERMS!*
IT'S HOPELESS! TRAPPED ON A SINKING SHIP WITH A LUNATIC!
PERHAPS NOT! WHEN ISIS SAID HER PEOPLE WERE DOWN THERE, IT COULD BE SHE MEANT IT LITERALLY!
YOU MEAN THAT THEY ARE *UNDERGROUND?* IN SOME SORT OF SHELTER?
PRECISELY, CAPTAIN!

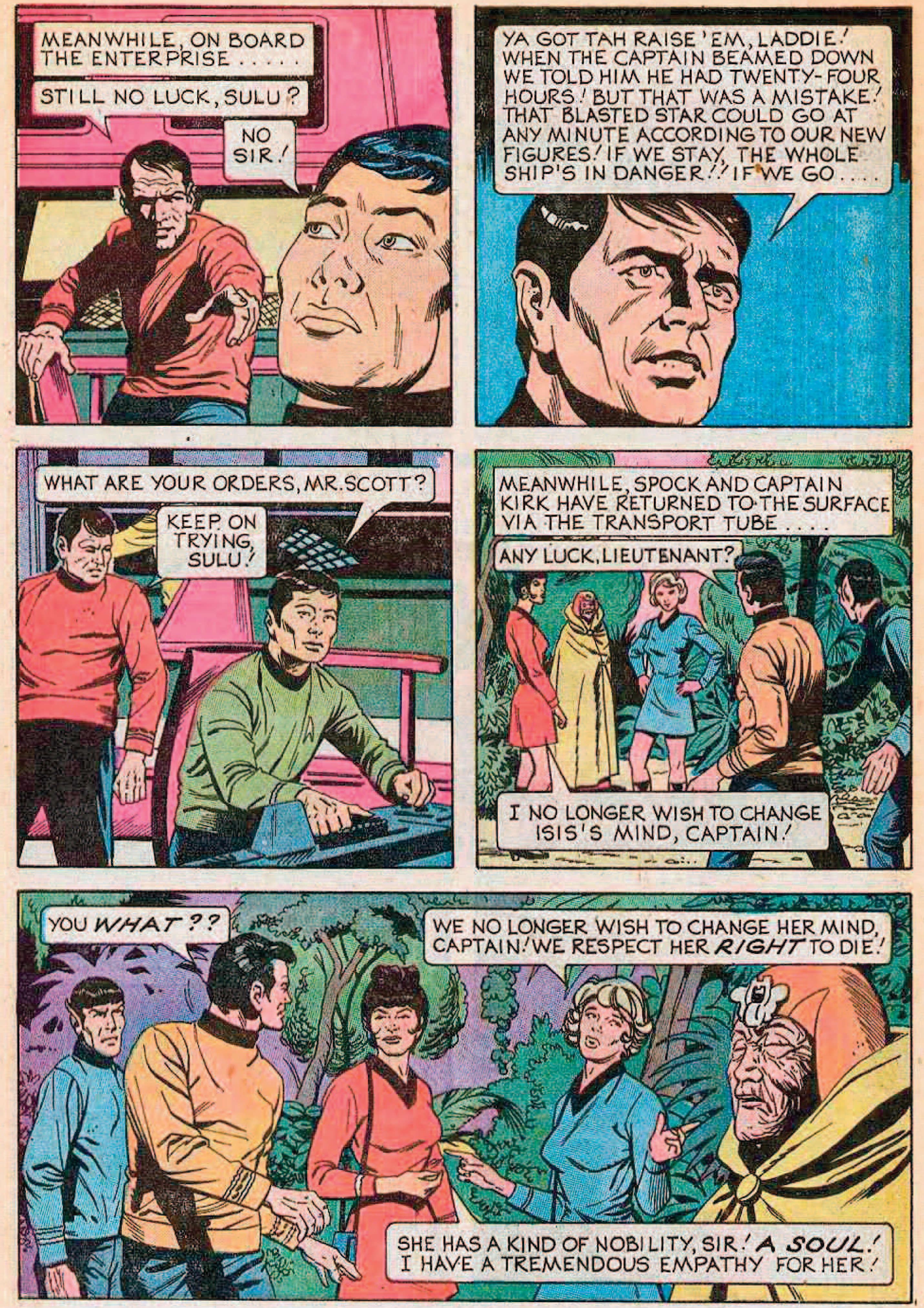

EXCELLENT REASONING, MR. SPOCK! THAT'S OUR ANSWER! START LOOKING FOR A PASSAGEWAY OR A TUNNEL RIGHT AWAY!
LT. UHURU! LT. CHAPEL! SPOCK AND I ARE GOING TO CHECK ON A THEORY OF HIS! IN THE MEAN TIME, YOU TWO SEE IF YOU CAN GET SOME SENSE OUT OF ISIS!
CLICK!
HYMMMMMMMM MMMMMMMM
CAPTAIN! COME QUICK! I BELIEVE I HAVE FOUND A WAY TO OUR "LOST ISISIANS"!
MEANWHILE...
COME, CHILDREN! LET US WALK FOR A WHILE IN THE GARDEN! THERE IS MUCH YET TO SAY AND LITTLE TIME TO SAY IT!

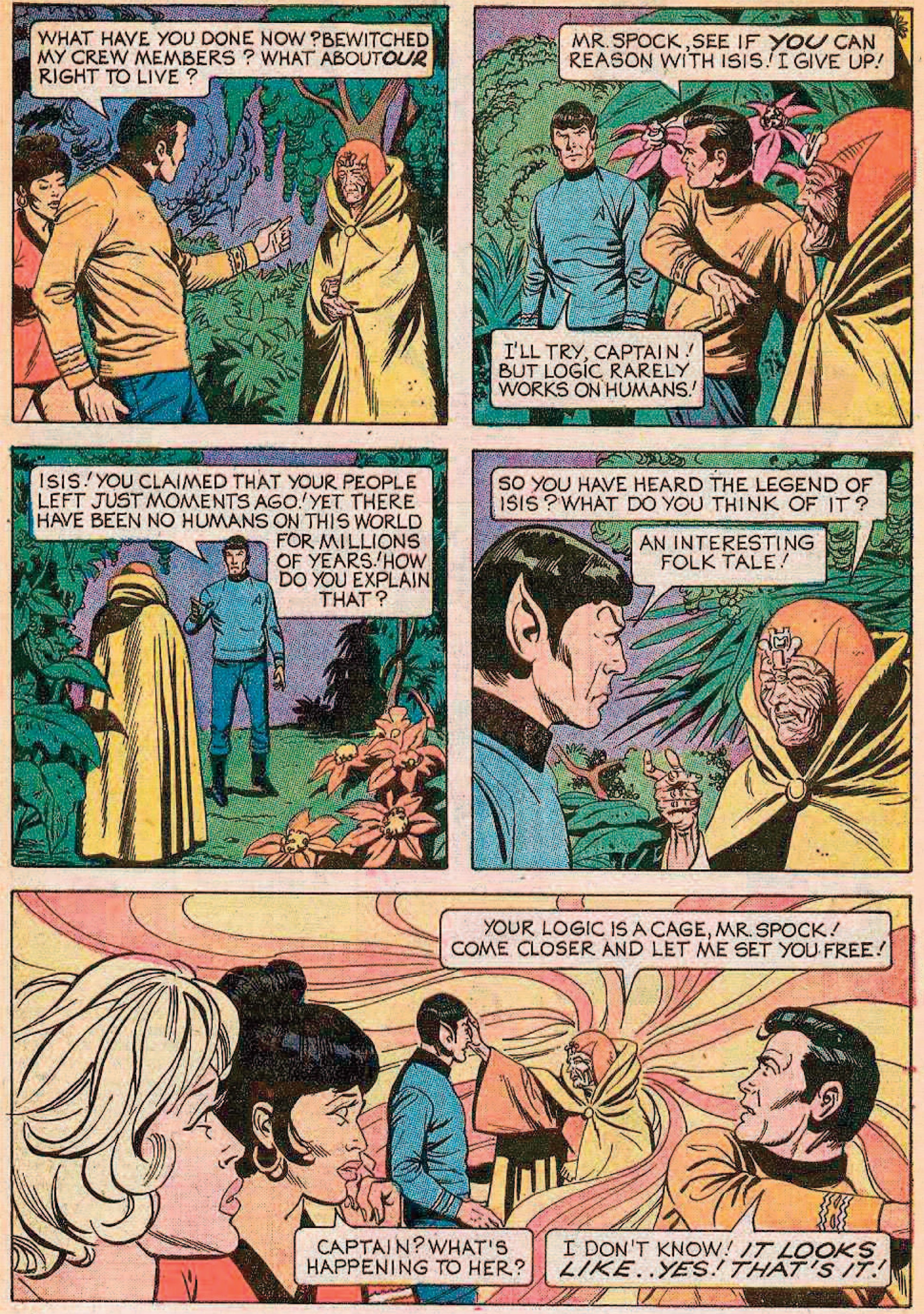

SUDDENLY, WHILE MR. SPOCK INVESTIGATES...
WHAT IS IT, MR. SPOCK? WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND!
CLICK!
VERY SIMPLE, CAPTAIN. THIS "EYE" SEEMS TO OPERATE SOME KIND OF......
..TRAP DOOOOR!
WE'RE FLOATING! SPOCK!
THOUGH THE ODDS WERE AGAINST IT, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A SECOND PASSAGEWAY BELOW OUR FEET!
ODDS OR NO ODDS.....
YOU'VE HIT THE JACKPOT, MR. SPOCK!

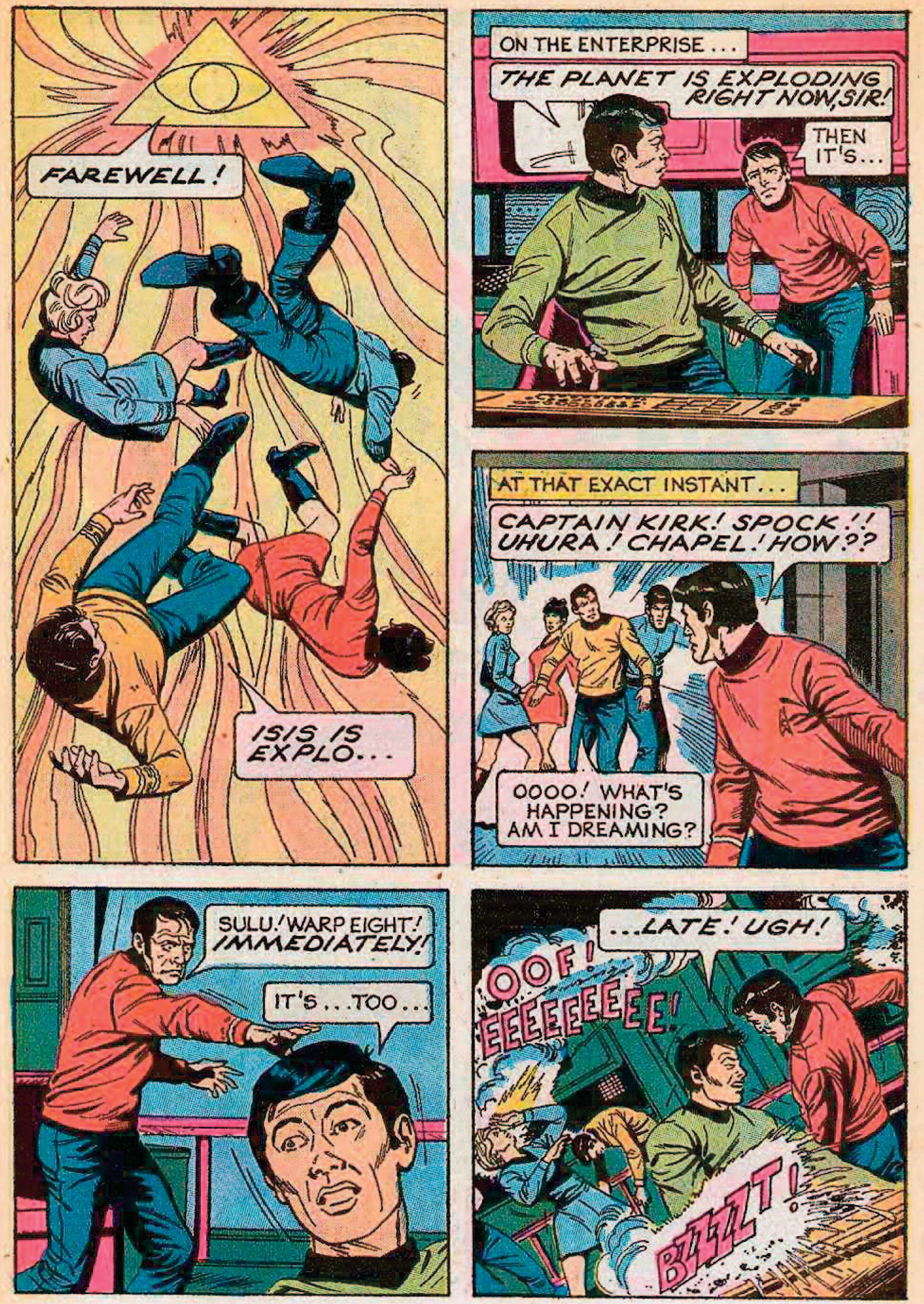

NOT QUITE, CAPTAIN! THESE ARE RUINS!
DESERTED RUINS!
WHERE? WHERE COULD THESE PEOPLE BE? WHY DID THEY LEAVE THAT OLD WOMAN BEHIND?
PERHAPS THESE WILL TELL US, CAPTAIN!
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE, MR. SPOCK?
THEY APPEAR TO BE HISTORY TAPES, CAPTAIN!
I CAN HEAR THEM, *SEE THEM* INSIDE MY HEAD!
AT FIRST THERE WAS ONLY "THE EYE", *ISIS!*

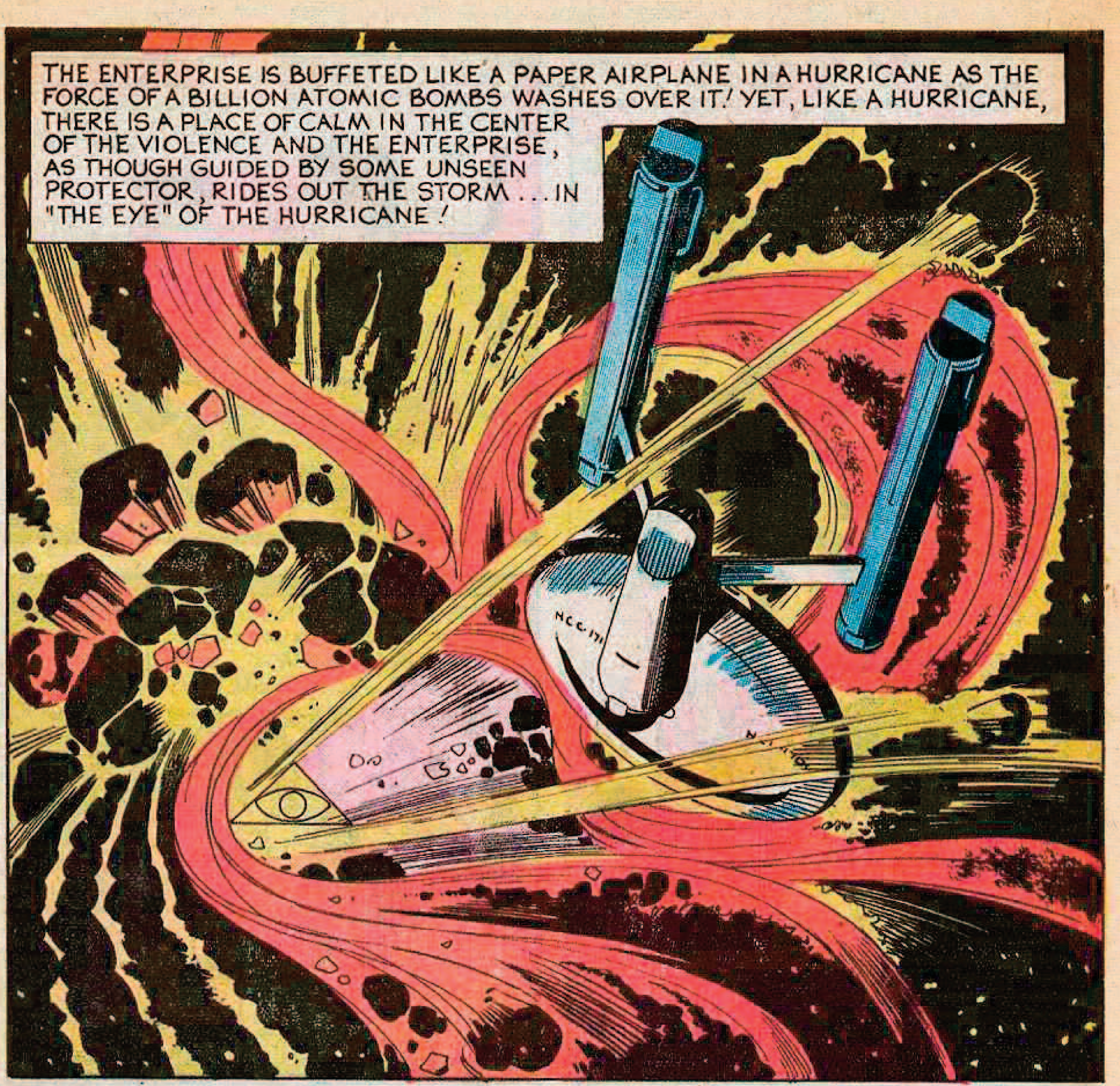

AND ISIS LOOKED DOWN ON OUR WORLD AND SAW THAT THERE WAS NO LIGHT!
SO ISIS SEEDED THE EARTH WITH HER EYES!
AND THERE-IN ROSE UP A PEOPLE CALLED ISISIANS!
AND WHEN THEY LOOKED UP THERE WAS LIGHT! FOR ISIS NOW LIVED AMONG THEM!
AND SO THEY BUILT A TEMPLE TO HOUSE ISIS! AND THERE ISIS DID STAY WITH HER CHILDREN ON THIS PLANET!


AND, FOR A WHILE, ALL WAS JOYOUS WITH THE CHILDREN OF THE EYE! BUT ALL THINGS MUST PASS! EVEN PEOPLES! EVEN SUNS!
AND THUS IT CAME TIME FOR *ISIS* TO RETURN TO THE SKY, TAKING WITH HER THE GIFTS OF LIFE AND LIGHT!
SO IT IS, THAT, IN THE TWILIGHT OF OUR RACE WE HAVE GROPED BLINDLY UNDERGROUND TO MAKE THIS OUR FINAL RESTING PLACE! YET WE ARE NOT BITTER! WE ARE SAD! FOR ONE DAY *ISIS TOO* MUST GIVE UP THE *EYE* AND PASS!
THUS ENDS OUR STORY! THUS ENDS OUR RACE!
CLICK!
INCREDIBLE!
AM I CORRECT IN ASSUMING, SPOCK, THAT WE HAVE HEARD THE LEGEND OF A PEOPLE LONG SINCE *EXTINCT*?
25 MILLION YEARS EXTINCT, CAPTAIN, IF MY ESTIMATE IS ACCURATE!


MEANWHILE, ON BOARD THE ENTERPRISE . . . . .
STILL NO LUCK, SULU?
NO SIR!
YA GOT TAH RAISE 'EM, LADDIE! WHEN THE CAPTAIN BEAMED DOWN WE TOLD HIM HE HAD TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! BUT THAT WAS A MISTAKE! THAT BLASTED STAR COULD GO AT ANY MINUTE ACCORDING TO OUR NEW FIGURES! IF WE STAY, THE WHOLE SHIP'S IN DANGER!! IF WE GO . . . .
WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, MR. SCOTT?
KEEP ON TRYING, SULU!
MEANWHILE, SPOCK AND CAPTAIN KIRK HAVE RETURNED TO THE SURFACE VIA THE TRANSPORT TUBE . . . .
ANY LUCK, LIEUTENANT?
I NO LONGER WISH TO CHANGE ISIS'S MIND, CAPTAIN!
YOU *WHAT*??
WE NO LONGER WISH TO CHANGE HER MIND, CAPTAIN! WE RESPECT HER *RIGHT* TO DIE!
SHE HAS A KIND OF NOBILITY, SIR! *A SOUL!* I HAVE A TREMENDOUS EMPATHY FOR HER!


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE NOW? BEWITCHED MY CREW MEMBERS? WHAT ABOUT *OUR* RIGHT TO LIVE?
MR. SPOCK, SEE IF *YOU* CAN REASON WITH ISIS! I GIVE UP!
I'LL TRY, CAPTAIN! BUT LOGIC RARELY WORKS ON HUMANS!
ISIS! YOU CLAIMED THAT YOUR PEOPLE LEFT JUST MOMENTS AGO! YET THERE HAVE BEEN NO HUMANS ON THIS WORLD FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS! HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?
SO YOU HAVE HEARD THE LEGEND OF ISIS? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?
AN INTERESTING FOLK TALE!
YOUR LOGIC IS A CAGE, MR. SPOCK! COME CLOSER AND LET ME SET YOU FREE!
CAPTAIN? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER?
I DON'T KNOW! *IT LOOKS LIKE.. YES! THAT'S IT!*


FAREWELL!
ISIS IS EXPLO...
ON THE ENTERPRISE...
THE PLANET IS EXPLODING RIGHT NOW, SIR!
THEN IT'S...
AT THAT EXACT INSTANT...
CAPTAIN KIRK! SPOCK!! UHURA! CHAPEL! HOW??
OOOO! WHAT'S HAPPENING? AM I DREAMING?
SULU! WARP EIGHT! IMMEDIATELY!
IT'S...TOO...
...LATE! UGH!
OOF!
EEEEEEEEE!
BZZZT!


THE ENTERPRISE IS BUFFETED LIKE A PAPER AIRPLANE IN A HURRICANE AS THE FORCE OF A BILLION ATOMIC BOMBS WASHES OVER IT! YET, LIKE A HURRICANE, THERE IS A PLACE OF CALM IN THE CENTER OF THE VIOLENCE AND THE ENTERPRISE, AS THOUGH GUIDED BY SOME UNSEEN PROTECTOR, RIDES OUT THE STORM . . . IN "THE EYE" OF THE HURRICANE!
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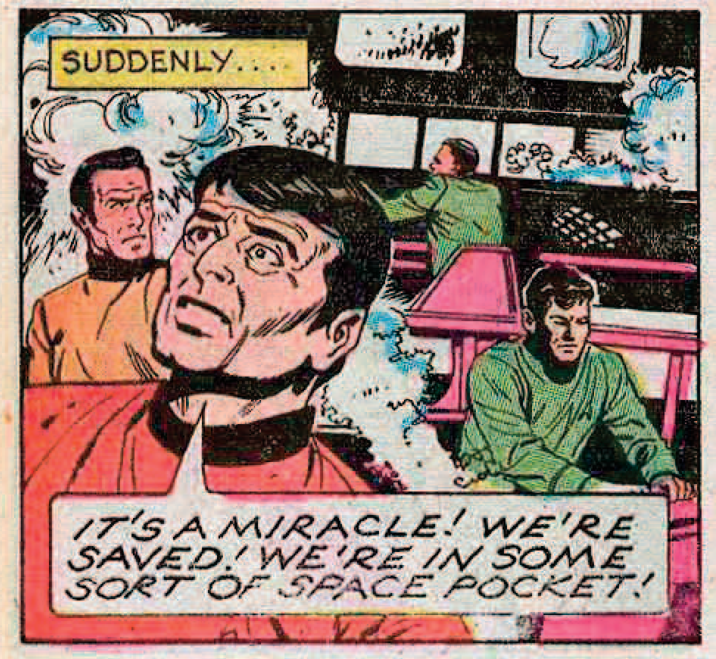
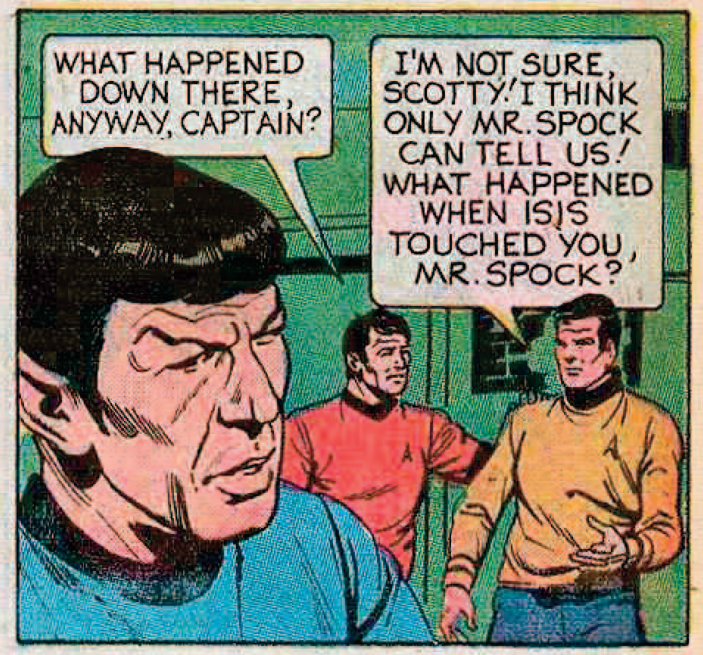
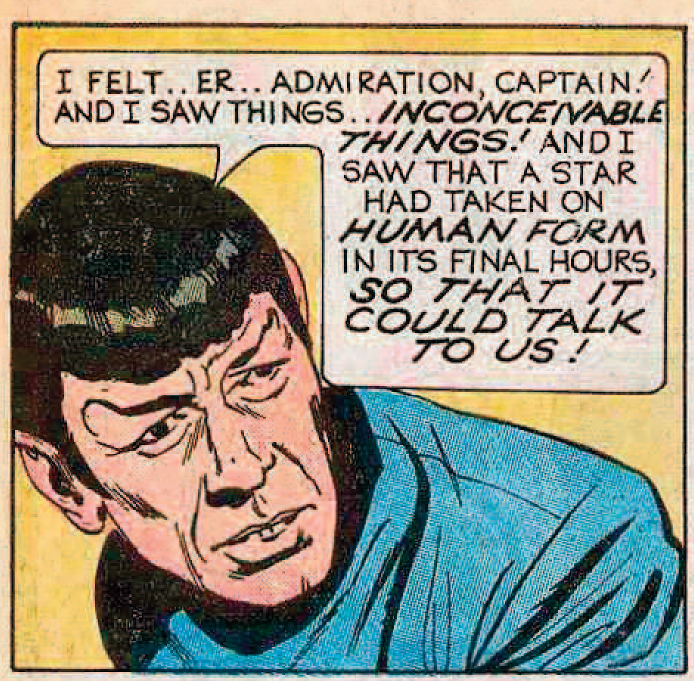
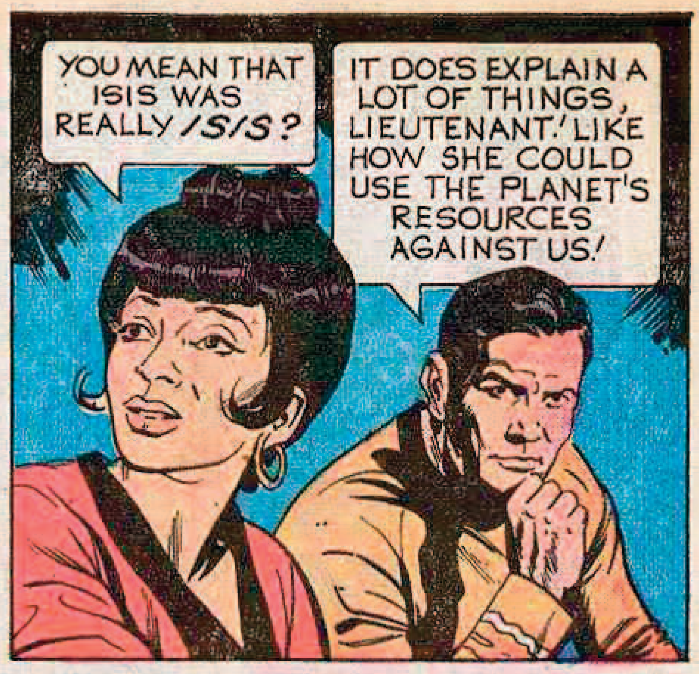
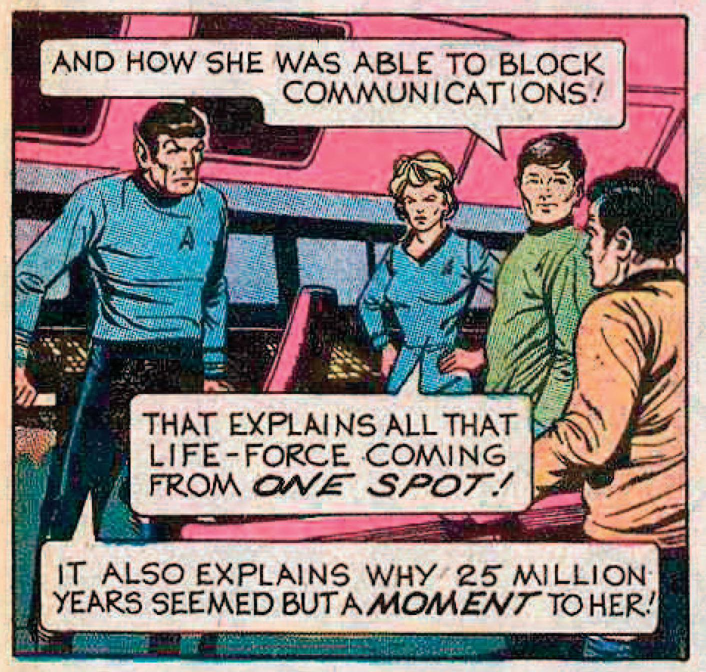
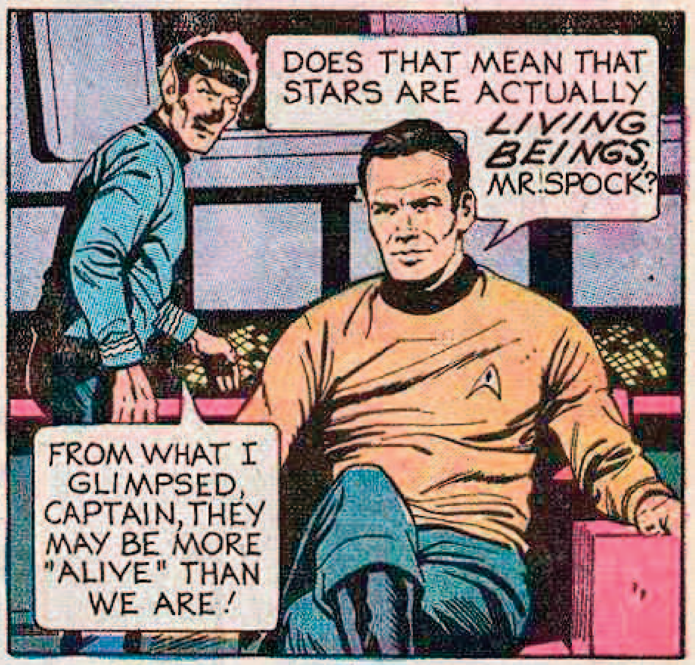

SUDDENLY . . .
IT'S A MIRACLE! WE'RE SAVED! WE'RE IN SOME SORT OF SPACE POCKET!

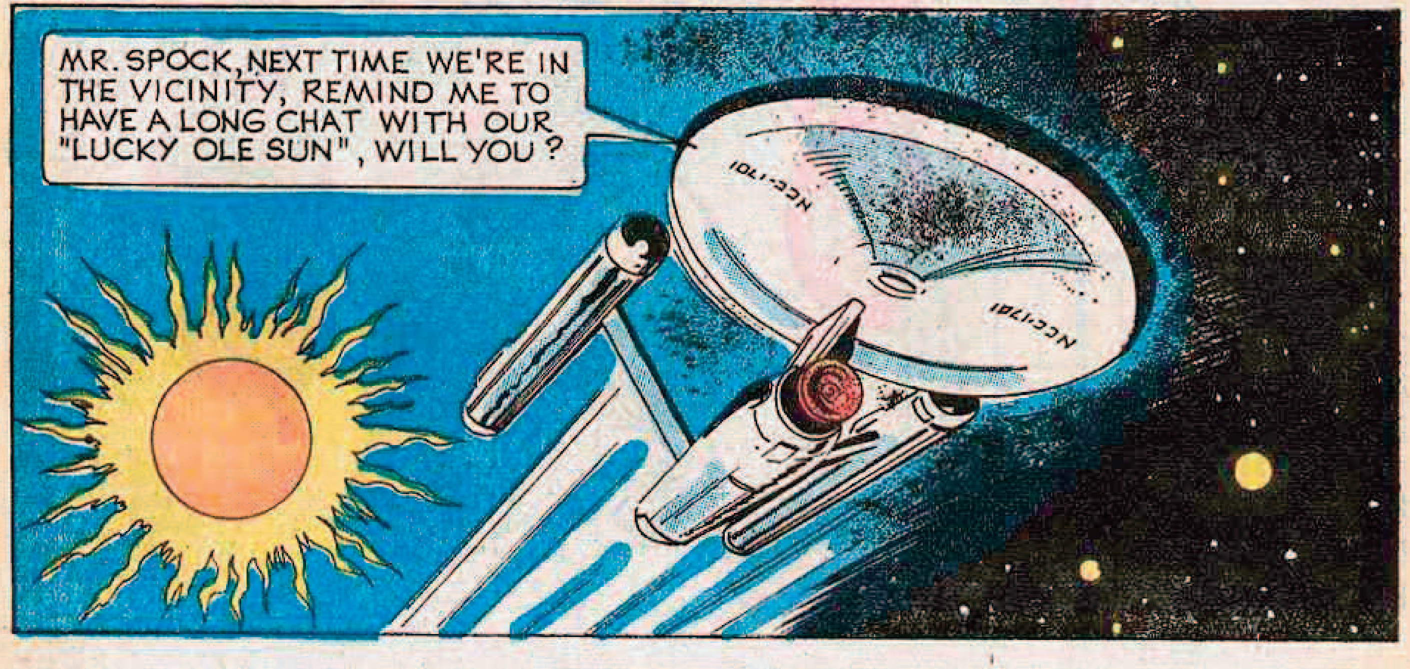

WHAT HAPPENED DOWN THERE, ANYWAY, CAPTAIN?
I'M NOT SURE, SCOTTY! I THINK ONLY MR. SPOCK CAN TELL US! WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ISIS TOUCHED YOU, MR. SPOCK?


I FELT.. ER.. ADMIRATION, CAPTAIN! AND I SAW THINGS.. *INCONCEIVABLE THINGS!* AND I SAW THAT A STAR HAD TAKEN ON *HUMAN FORM* IN ITS FINAL HOURS, *SO THAT IT COULD TALK TO US!*


YOU MEAN THAT ISIS WAS REALLY *ISIS*?
IT DOES EXPLAIN A LOT OF THINGS, LIEUTENANT! LIKE HOW SHE COULD USE THE PLANET'S RESOURCES AGAINST US!


AND HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO BLOCK COMMUNICATIONS!
THAT EXPLAINS ALL THAT LIFE-FORCE COMING FROM *ONE SPOT!*
IT ALSO EXPLAINS WHY 25 MILLION YEARS SEEMED BUT A *MOMENT* TO HER!


DOES THAT MEAN THAT STARS ARE ACTUALLY *LIVING BEINGS*, MR. SPOCK?
FROM WHAT I GLIMPSED, CAPTAIN, THEY MAY BE MORE "ALIVE" THAN WE ARE!


MR. SPOCK, NEXT TIME WE'RE IN THE VICINITY, REMIND ME TO HAVE A LONG CHAT WITH OUR "LUCKY OLE SUN", WILL YOU?
NCC-1701
NCC-1701